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COMMAND GUIDANCE

by Robert K. Brown

Gun Crimes and Misdemeanors

In the final days of the 104th Congress, when no one on our side seemed to be watching, the Democrats managed to quietly attack and severely damage the 2nd and 4th Amendments. The impact certainly will be worse than the assault-weapons ban.

Clinton's hatchet men attached a number of riders to appropriations bills. In their haste to get home to run for re-election most of the Republicans voted for the Democrats' language, which imposes more gun control while allowing unreasonable search and seizure. The worst of it authorizes federal law-enforcement agencies to 1) confiscate firearms from, and prohibit further sales to, anyone convicted of a domestic-related *misdemeanor*, and 2) establish a nationwide network of firearms-enforcement areas on the nation's highways.

The confiscation bill, sponsored for the Clinton administration by Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.), might be the most sweeping, anti-gun law since the Revolutionary War. Although its language was weakened somewhat by NRA-friendly Rep. Bob Barr (R-Ga.), it dramatically changes the rules for lawful gun ownership.

It used to be that *felons* were denied the right to gun ownership, but that now has been extended to include those convicted of politically incorrect misdemeanors. As it now stands, if you are convicted of any misdemeanor related to domestic conflict, ATF goons can come through the door and seize your guns. In other words, a man who threatens to hit his wife and is convicted of uttering a threat might lose his guns for life. Women, take note: Although this provision

obviously is meant to show female voters that Big Brother (the overbearing, federal government) wants to "protect" them from brutish spouses, the reality could be just the opposite. For example, if a woman is convicted of a misdemeanor for (God forbid) spanking her children, she legally would not be able to own a firearm to protect herself from a dangerous ex-husband, and so on.

If these domestic crimes are so heinous, then the states ought to change them to felonies, leaving the status of gun ownership the same. But status quo on gun ownership is precisely what Lautenberg and Slick Willie wanted to change.

The blunt reality is that this change in law represents the *first step* toward prohibiting anyone convicted of *any* misdemeanor from owning firearms. And make no mistake, Big Brother's goal is not to decrease domestic violence or halt other misdemeanors; it merely is one more excuse to seize more guns.

The second new, last-minute, anti-gun law was deviously engineered to dovetail and work with other recent changes in federal search-and-seizure laws — and expands ATF enforcement of firearms-confiscation laws.

Earlier this year a separate bill, passed into law, expanded the right of federal agents to stop vehicles for *any* reason. Another new law expanded the right of all law-enforcement officers — federal, state and local — to search a vehicle *without a search warrant* once it has been stopped. Federal law-enforcement agencies have sought those

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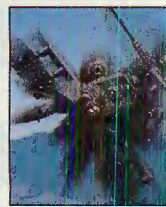
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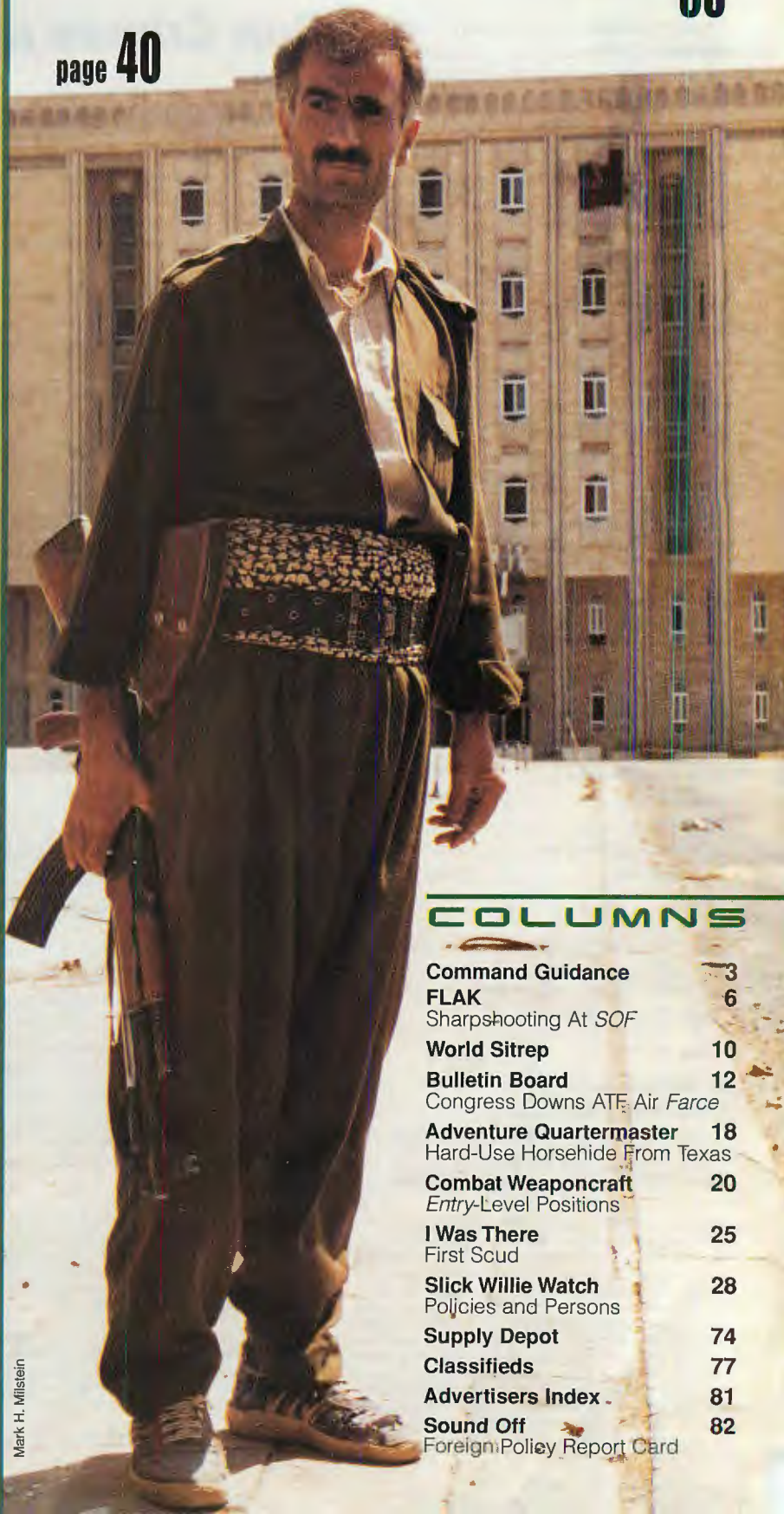
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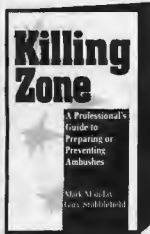


SILENCER HISTORY AND PERFORMANCE

Vol. 1, Sporting and Tactical Silencers

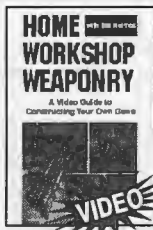
by Alan C. Paulson

Over the past decade, the field of firearm silencers has exploded with diverse new technologies and remarkable new designs, spawning increased interest in silencers both for tactical operations by military and police and sporting purposes by qualified civilians. Alan C. Paulson - who has been called "the dean of American silencer experts today" - chronicles these new developments and designs in the most significant book on silencers to come out in years. This book provides an unprecedented look at the development of the latest silencers made by the world's top designers as well as an objective analysis of their capabilities. It reveals the proper methods for measuring suppressor performance, debunks misleading articles and unfounded claims by previous writers and provides authoritative details on the best pistol, rifle and machine gun silencers used by discriminating civilian gun owners, elite military units and secretive government agencies. 8 1/2 x 11, softcover, photos, illus., 424 pp. **\$50.00**



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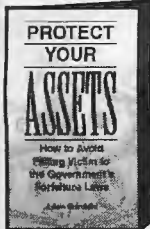
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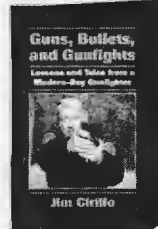
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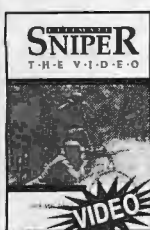
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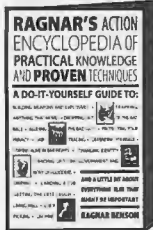
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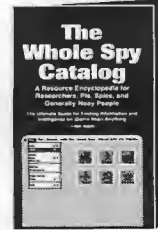
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MURKY PERIOD IN GOLD WAR

Colonel Michael E. Haas' fascinating article ("The Flame That Flickered And Died," Oct. '96 *SOF*) about the period of covert arms supply to the Tibetan resistance was an excellent contribution to the history of this murky period of proxy conflict in Asia.

In *Freedom in Exile*, his 1990 autobiography, the Dalai Lama observed that "the Americans felt it was worthwhile to provide limited assistance to the Tibetan freedom fighters, not because they cared about Tibetan independence, but as part of their worldwide efforts to destabilize all Communist governments."

In practical terms, no sustained large-scale assistance to the Tibetan fighters would have been possible without the active and overt participation of [Premier] Nehru's India and, probably, Nepal. No such collaboration was forthcoming and, as Haas noted, eventually the American covert assistance ceased and the Tibetan resistance was ground down, overwhelmed by the Chinese.

As in the Baltic states, the end result was that far more Tibetans suffered and died than might have been the case without armed resistance. One might even draw an analogy with events in Afghanistan.

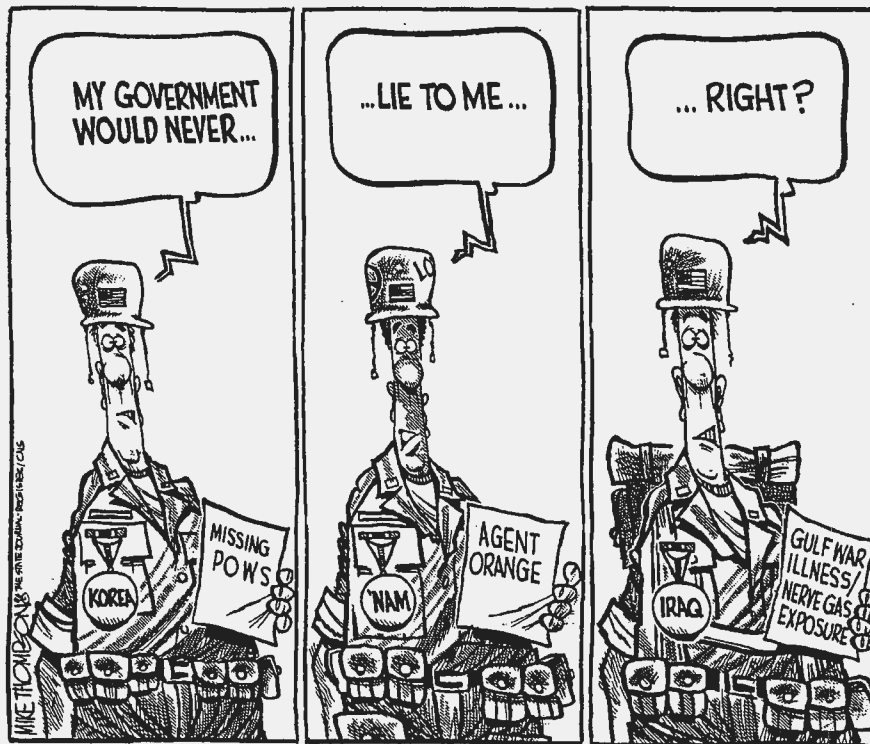
William Corr
Osaka, Japan

COMMO FROM THE TROOPS...

I am a sailor aboard the guided-missile cruiser USS Gettysburg (CG-64) attached to the Enterprise battle group in the northern Persian Gulf supporting the Carl Vinson battle group against Iraq. I am writing in response to your Sept. '96 article "Hez' Hunters: Ringside at 'Grapes of Wrath,'" nothing of which takes me by surprise.

We had spent the latter part of August in the port of Haifa, Israel. While there we took in many of the sights, good or bad. We visited many of the cities: Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, etc. We rubbed elbows with a lot of [Israeli] soldiers, officer and enlisted.

First thing I noticed is that a large part of Israel was *not* the war-torn sand dunes the press makes it out to be. The second thing I noticed was that the Israelis all felt the same way. Military or civilian, they were all more than willing to die to keep their country (intact). They had a sense of unity about them that I had never felt in any other country, and none of them gave me the impression that they were out to "pick a fight." I sense that they would take any attack seri-



ously but would not fly off the handle.

Anyone who wanted a piece of Israel would definitely have their hands full; they are a force to be reckoned with. ... Oh yeah: If you're wondering if [Israelis] care what the international press thinks — I don't think they do.

Jacob J. Liggitt
USS Gettysburg

After being a professional soldier for nearly 10 years, rarely do I get infuriated over what the overeducated, loud minority of this country say. This letter is in response to the tactical "genius" of University of Miami law student T. Golik [Oct. '96 FLAK letter: "Fight The Way You Train"]. Obviously, Mr. Golik ... never attended *my* school, one of the world's premier combat-leadership courses: U.S. Army Ranger school.

I have been an instructor in the mountain phase for almost three years. The maxim that Mr. Golik called "pure, unadulterated cow chips" — *You will fight the way you train* — is echoed daily by my fellow instructors and myself, throughout these [northern Georgia] mountains, to our students who *will* go on to train and maybe lead our Army in combat.

What he fails to understand is that soldiers are trained a specific way to react a certain way in order to accomplish their

mission. This training develops instinct. ... If you want your soldiers to take a knee behind cover during halts, so 7.62mm rounds don't pierce their torsos while they are doing a map check or taking water break, then that's what you do during training — a simple concept. ... Ranger school has been around since the '50s and we have been saying "train as you fight" for that long.

All of the Ranger students that went on to lead combat troops in Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, Desert Storm, Somalia, and Bosnia did not spray "the countryside wildly and ineffectively with M16s," Mr. Golik. Training prevents this and here, in the mountains of Dahlonega, Ga., on 30 minutes of sleep a day for 10 days, one meal a day and continuous [mock] combat patrols, we definitely *train as we fight*. ...

Staff Sgt. Mark S. Leslie
Camp Frank D. Merrill, Ga.

Thanks so much for your support of the soldiers here in Bosnia. I command the 64th Military Police Company, and I just wanted to tell you how much my soldiers appreciated the books that *SOF* sent. When you are so far from home, it helps to have something productive to do with your time. [*The paperback campaign, an overwhelming success, has been completed; further dona-*

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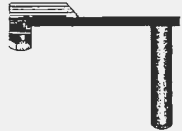
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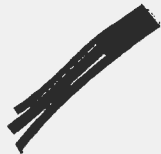
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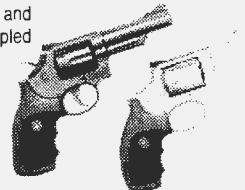
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tions are not needed. — Editor]

Things are going pretty well right now in Bosnia and soldiers' morale is high. After working with so many foreign units, I am happy to tell you that America really *does* have the best army in the world. Her sons and daughters are still proud to serve.

Capt. Steve Laurance
Camp Alicia

PRO & CON FOR "HACK"

I found retired Col. Hackworth's commentary, "Defense Budget Basics" (Oct. '96 Parting Shot), quite interesting and accurate. It's obvious that our threats have changed, but we are unable or unwilling to adjust our defense strategies to defend against them. Developing new high-tech, high-cost weapon systems just for the sake of keeping some company that contributes to a certain political party in business is unacceptable. We have to realize that the world changes and we have to adjust. ...

The idea of returning to the basics, as Col. Hackworth suggests, is something the country clearly needs to do. Thinking that a Cold War still exists and preparing for one is a sure way to cause serious mistakes. It does not take a genius to realize that the real enemies [of America] are not of the caliber and size of the former Soviet Union. ... Being "strong on defense" should not translate into *how much* is

spent, but *how* it is spent.

The sooner we get back to ... realistically providing for our security, the better we will all be. Regardless of who we are, we all have the responsibility to do whatever we can to let our government know that we will hold them accountable.

Roger W. Hart
Fallon, Nev.

I was incensed and disgusted to read Col. David Hackworth's socialist *agitprop* in Parting Shot (Oct. '96). This is the kind of treasonous propaganda that I expect to find in U.N. publications or *Foreign Affairs*, but *never* in *Soldier Of Fortune*! I don't know which is worse: Col. Hackworth establishing himself, in writing, as an intellectual pygmy or *SOF* allowing such trash to be published.

Using vague statistics to sensationalize his misinformation, "Hack" would have the reader believe that the current budget deficit is solely due to defense spending. Before he opens his mouth and advertises his ignorance, he ought to get his facts straight.

President Clinton's defense budget for fiscal year '97 represents the twelfth consecutive year of declining defense budgets. ... Meanwhile, entitlements for FY '97 account for 13% of GDP [gross domestic product], up from 11% in 1991 and still rising.

Under the U.S. Constitution ... defense is a *legal obligation* of the federal government; entitlements *are not*.

"Hack" also warps the truth with his assessment of [the late] Defense Secretary Les Aspin. Far from being the pork-barrel SecDef as "Hack" claims, Aspin was a key pro-U.N. insider whose goal was to destroy our military through homosexual advocacy, feminization of the armed forces and radical, reckless cuts in force structure and funding. The two-MRC strategy [response to two medium, regional conflicts] was, and is, just for appearances. Anyone currently involved with the military knows our resources can't even support the idiotic peacetime commitments we have (fiascoes like Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia).

What Hack's real agenda is remains a mystery to me. ... What I am sure of is that our job is tough enough with the beatnik, anti-military media always cutting us down without "patriots" like Col. Hackworth spewing out pro-disarmament rubbish. In my unit, we rely on *Soldier Of Fortune* for the truth and for support.

By allowing Col. Hackworth's lies to appear, you are helping a wolf in sheep's clothing do Clinton's work for him. ... (Please withhold my name, rank, unit and base. My "PC" commander would love to crush anyone badmouthing Mr. Clinton.)

U.S. Air Force member
California

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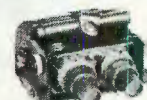


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MAN OF FEW WORDS

I don't give a fat rat's ass, I'm keeping my gun anyway.

Bud Hoover
via E-mail

SHARPSHOOTING AT SOF

Although Greg Walker usually writes outstanding articles for *SOF*, in "Killing Terrorists At Home ... And Other SEAL Team 6 Specialities" (Nov. '96) he wanked one, although just a minor one.

The SBS, Special Boat Squadron (not Service), is most definitely not a "maritime counterpart" of the SAS, which is an elite unit of the British army. Rather, the SBS is a specialized unit of the Royal Marines, more akin to the USMC Force Recon or the SEALs themselves than to the SAS. Again, just a minor point, but we Marines gotta stick up for each other.

Scott Murdock
Atlanta
via E-mail

Truth is, a (red-faced) editor also missed this error.

I normally don't write to magazines; however, your October 1996 issue had some real wingnuts who have to be taken to task.

The cover photograph is captioned:

"Special Forces soldier gives suppressive fire with M16 in immediate-action drill during team's jungle training in Panama." At first, I had thought this was just another bonehead in Bumscrew, Bosnia, or some other jerkwater country being used for the cover photo. Unfortunately, this was not so. This soldier has an M203; however, I was *really* impressed with the spray-and-pray technique while he was holding the grenade-launcher portion wide open.

His lack of sleeves, along with the unprotected and uncamouflaged skin in the middle of Panama, was another great selling point. ... His Team Daddy should kick his ass and get him with the program: being a professional SF soldier. Perhaps the caption should have read, "Trailer Trash Goes Gung-Ho," or "Hee Haw in the Jungle," or "Jim Carrey's Twin Brother in Panama: When Clinton Calls." ...

Otherwise, keep up the good work. Keep defending the 2nd Amendment and the NRA. ...

Henry Gill
Lancaster, Calif.

NORTHERN ALARM

The Canadian Armed Forces are almost destroyed, not by an enemy with force of arms but by its own government.

No doubt you have followed the disgusting fiasco that followed the so-called

"Somalia Affair." The Canadian media, with honest-to-God left-wing zeal and self-righteous indignation, embarked on a campaign of witch-hunting and mudslinging that eventually destroyed the Canadian Paratroop Regiment. ...

The Liberal Party politicians (pseudo-intellectual socialists), headed by that treasonous bastard, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, and sensing an easy prey followed suit and in the months that followed have destroyed whatever morale was left in the Armed Forces.

Defense budgets are reduced to the point where we have three (obsolete diesel) submarines left. Our tanks are worn out; our F-18s are flown to the point of disrepair and the avionics are old. We no longer have adequate helicopters (our Sea Kings are worn out and keep crashing). ... The system is being flooded with well-meaning — but poorly trained — reserves. Their exercises are a very poor joke. Most of their equipment is disgusting; anyone who argues this is a bloody liar!

As a veteran ... this breaks my heart. Beware — don't let this happen to you. God help us in Canada!

Aaron Kfir
St. Johns, Newfoundland

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WORLD SITREP

1

UNITED STATES

Threat scenario for chem/biowar with Iraq emerges: Future first-strikes — delivered by truck, missile, or ship — of persistent toxins (anthrax or VX chemical) contaminate U.S. prepositioned materiel, friendly ports in six Gulf nations, delaying response to Saddam's next adventure. American military, having last suffered numbers of poison-gas casualties in WWI, investigates Gulf War fallout: Pentagon after-action data suggest sarin-gas exposure (March 1991) to 20,000 U.S. troops near bombed Iraqi ammo depots. • Of the 44 U.S. cruise missiles fired at Iraq, one-quarter either missed their targets or the targets had moved. Another six failed to launch due to mechanical problems.

2

RUSSIA

Border Guards plan renewed attacks in Afghanistan: Islamic rebels based there escalate civil war in impoverished neighbor, Tajikistan, ex-Soviet republic; 25,000 Border Guards in Tajikistan have taken casualties in civil war pitting Islamic mujahideen against ex-communist regime. • NATO's eastward expansion, accepting ex-Warsaw Pact members, could provoke tension and arms race, warns Moscow. Despite Scandinavian support for Baltic memberships — which Russia opposes — U.S. says Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania aren't ready for NATO. • 12 army generals are prosecuted on charges of corruption.

7

IRAN

Tehran demands access to modern mine-clearance equipment, denied by U.S.-led embargo, to clear minefields left over from 1980-8 Gulf War with Iraq. • Government reports its citizens surrendered 65,000 unlicensed firearms under amnesty program begun early in 1996.

6

NORTHERN IRELAND

British intel-analysis of Irish Republican Army field structure: At top — seven-member Army Council supported by General HQ and full-time staffs for personnel, training, logistics, engineering, intel, and finance. Operationally — Northern Command (Ulster province) comprises 100-member Brigade in Belfast, 70-member Derry/North Donegal Brigade, and 10 active-service units of 10-40 members each; Southern Command controls largely noncombatant units in Ireland and ops in England or Europe. • Frantic IRA internal investigation following raids on secret bomb factories; fears of British penetration of "engineering department."

8

INDIA

Pilots' inexperience and errors, equipment failure, poor maintenance and bird strikes contribute to crashes of 82 warplanes — including MiG-21s, -23s and -29s, and Mirages and Jaguars — since early 1993, a world record.

12

VIETNAM

Hanoi looks to old benefactor, Moscow, in overdue push to upgrade military — particularly navy, air force and air defenses. Projects already underway: Vietnamese construction of Russian-designed corvettes, air-defense radars, and Su-27 jets. Modernization of armed forces, numbering some 500,000 troops, is motivated largely by concern over territorial disputes with China.

13

BOSNIA

NATO's unpleasant discovery: Widely used, new-generation anti-vehicle mine — Yugoslav TMRP-6 (11-pound charge propels 1-pound metal plug upward at tremendous velocity) — kills at least 10 IFOR troops, exposes need for international standard for underside armor on APCs and light vehicles. • Bavaria becomes first German state to expel Bosnian refugees; some 320,000 sought refuge in Germany, eventually straining social services.

3

EGYPT

Nearly 35,000 troops participate in *Badr 96*, nation's largest exercise ever, testing rapid response by air, naval, amphibious, armored, and electronic-warfare forces to hypothetical threats — simultaneous incursions — by Libya, Sudan and Israel. (Despite Suez Canal crossing, military officials in Israel acknowledge Egypt's 10-day exercise is not provocative.)

4

CHINA

Beijing to sell Iran warplanes, anti-ship missiles, and armored vehicles for \$4 billion in cash and oil. Recent China weapons' sales to Tehran, including fast patrol boats, already totaled \$3 billion.

5

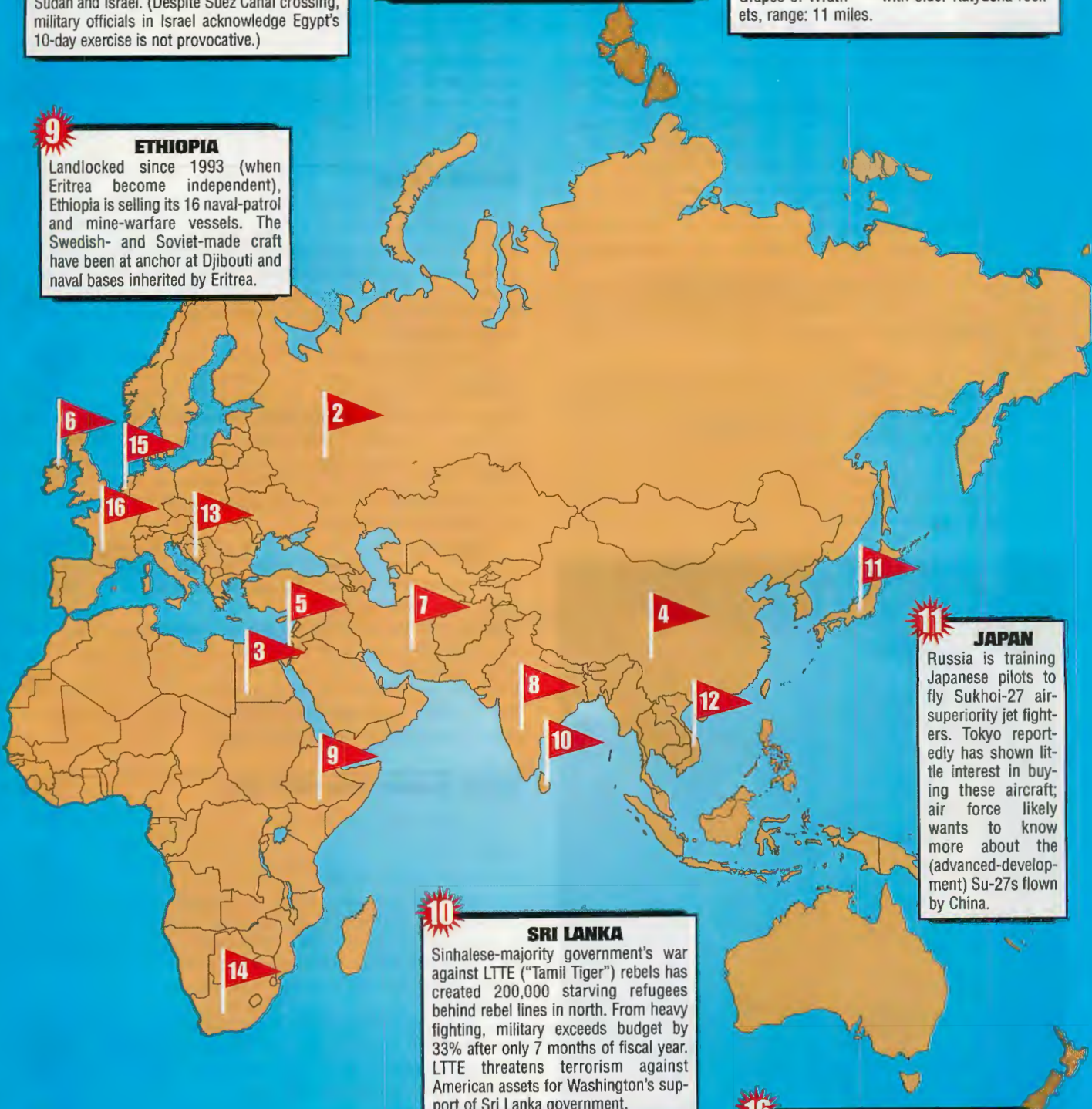
ISRAEL

Intelligence service reports that *Hezbollah*, deployed in southern Lebanon, now has Iran-supplied artillery rockets with range of 24 miles. *Hezbollah* teams have shelled northern Israel — last spring provoking retaliatory "Operation Grapes of Wrath" — with older *Katyusha* rockets, range: 11 miles.

9

ETHIOPIA

Landlocked since 1993 (when Eritrea become independent), Ethiopia is selling its 16 naval-patrol and mine-warfare vessels. The Swedish- and Soviet-made craft have been at anchor at Djibouti and naval bases inherited by Eritrea.



11

JAPAN

Russia is training Japanese pilots to fly *Sukhoi-27* air-superiority jet fighters. Tokyo reportedly has shown little interest in buying these aircraft; air force likely wants to know more about the (advanced-development) *Su-27s* flown by China.

10

SRI LANKA

Sinhalese-majority government's war against *LTTE* ("Tamil Tiger") rebels has created 200,000 starving refugees behind rebel lines in north. From heavy fighting, military exceeds budget by 33% after only 7 months of fiscal year. *LTTE* threatens terrorism against American assets for Washington's support of Sri Lanka government.

16

FRANCE

Land-based arm of nuclear forces eliminated: Military deactivates, eventually will dismantle, all 18 intercontinental ballistic missiles located in silos in southern France.

14

SOUTH AFRICA

Despite soaring crime rate, national police fret over popular rise of Muslim vigilantes, targeting drug dealers for death, as first step toward creation of Islamic state. President Mandela, however, endorses movement, to dismay of white politicians. • Britain buys three South African "Chubby" mine-clearance vehicles (part of \$9.3-million deal) for use by troops in Bosnia.

15

THE NETHERLANDS

Short military conscription ends. Short-haired volunteers face tougher physical and grooming standards than did previous generations of long-haired draftees.

World SitRep is excerpted in part from the biweekly newsletter *For Your Eyes Only: An Open Intelligence Summary of Current Military Affairs*. Published by Tiger Publications, P.O. Box 8759, Amarillo, Texas 79114-8759; subscriptions are \$70 per year (26 issues), \$74.38 in Texas. Sample issue available for \$3. Those interested in reliable world intel are encouraged to subscribe.

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CONGRESS DOWNS ATF AIR FARCE

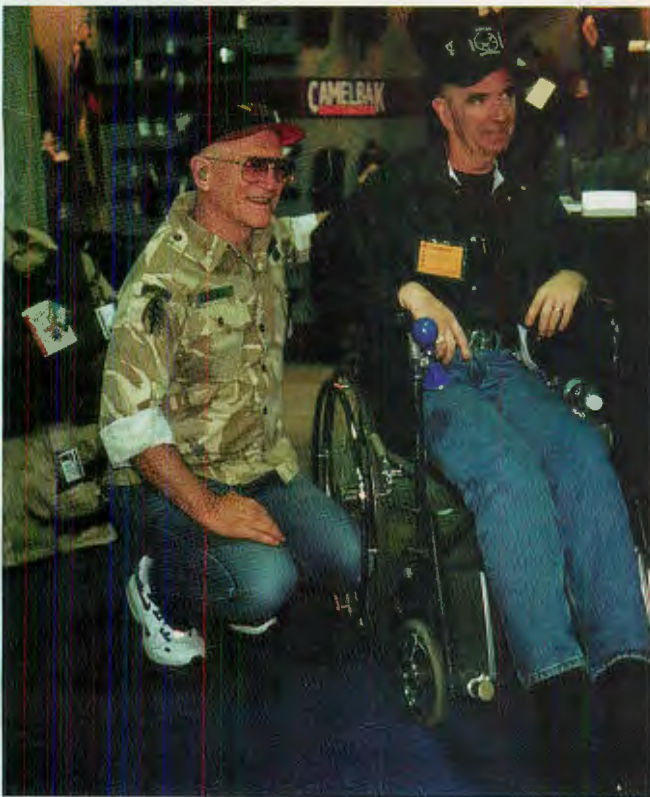
The Republican majority approved many last-minute betrayals of gun-owner rights as Congress adjourned prior to elections, but even a blind hog can find an acorn once in awhile: In a twelfth-hour conference agreement, House and Senate members abolished the BATF aviation program.

A House version of the appropriations bill had transferred all ATF aviation assets to Customs, but since Customs had no use for ATF's OV-10D Broncos the final conference version "direct[s] ATF to transfer the OV-10 aircraft to the Department of State and any excess aircraft or parts to the Department of Defense."

DoD is not likely to be thrilled, as ATF first got the aircraft from surplus Pentagon stocks, in a shady deal brought to light by *SOF* (see "ATF Watch" Sept. '95, and "*SOF* Exposes ATF's Warbirds" Oct. '95).

State will use some of the counterinsurgency airplanes to Paraquat coca plants in Bolivia and Peru. In Bolivia, at least, there is no insurgency to counter — unless the coca farmers get annoyed and an insurgency sprouts from the herbicide and ashes.

Abolition of ATF's air force came close on the heels of its founder finally being brought to justice: William Reece, who started ATF's aviation program in 1988, retired with full pay and benefits in 1993, when he was target of an investigation into the theft of



A pair to draw to: *SOF* publisher Bob Brown, left, confabs with legendary Marine sniper Carlos Hathcock at the *SOF* convention last September. Hathcock, who had been recommended for — and damn well deserved — a Medal of Honor, was recently awarded a Silver Star for his exploits in Vietnam. Presently enduring the debilitating effects of multiple sclerosis and complications of war wounds, Hathcock is one of the greatest snipers of all time, who right up to the time of his recent incapacitation was serving as an instructor.

\$1.5 million from the program's budget.

On 5 August, Reece pleaded guilty to a federal bill of information: Count one accused Reece of "a scheme" whereby he stole money from ATF's aviation program. The second count states Reece reported a false income for the tax year of 1990. Sentencing is scheduled for 4 November. — JLP

RASOR'S EDGE

By the time you read this, Army SF Sgt. 1st Class Ed Rasor will be a civilian (see "Why Is Clinton Afraid of the Green Berets?" June '96). Unable to reconcile his oath to protect and defend the Constitution with President Clinton's subversion of national sovereignty to the socialist agenda of the UN, Rasor requested release from his enlistment contract in March under an infrequently used Army regulation.

Rasor is among the first — if not *the* first — soldier to be honorably discharged because of his opposition to serving under a foreign military command. He ran afoul of the Army and the White House when, in his off-duty hours, he became a vocal and public supporter of Specialist Michael New, who was court-martialed for his refusal to wear a blue UN beret (see "Green Team or Blue Team" Feb. '96). An outside attorney reviewing Rasor's case for *SOF* noted Rasor "had the Army by the short hairs. They had to give him what he wanted."

"Basically, I volunteered for involuntary discharge," Rasor told *SOF*. "It was granted under the direct authority of the Secretary of the Army ... 'for the convenience of the government,' they said."

Rasor said the Army Special Forces Command sees his case as an isolated anomaly, but he thinks they are in for a surprise. "A lot of guys have been asking me for copies of my paperwork, to see how I did this. Because they want out. They signed on to be Special Forces soldiers, not serve in a politically correct social services agency farmed out to another government." — JLP

WACO CLAIMS ANOTHER LIFE

Two-and-a-half years after four BATF agents and six members of an obscure religious sect died in a botched raid outside Waco, Texas, the biggest federal law-enforcement disaster in modern times claimed another life.

"Have you ever seen a guy do something like this?" ATF Special Agent Nathaniel T. Medrano calmly asked a colleague in the bureau's Los Angeles office. Medrano then put the barrel of his SIG-Sauer 9mm pistol in his mouth and pulled the trigger.

The seven-year ATF veteran was despondent over the Treasury Department's failure to correct what Medrano saw as unfair criticism of his undercover performance in the Waco investigation, several agents and friends confirmed. Medrano had posed as a delivery man a month before the ill-fated raid in an attempt to see inside the sect's quarters at Mount Carmel.

Treasury's reports criticized Medrano's appearance and actions during the ruse, although it did not name him. His name was included in an appendix.

"They've taken away my good name," a lawyer with whom Medrano consulted quoted him as saying. "He was very upset, very depressed ... All he wanted was a letter ... that corrected what Medrano saw as an injustice. And he got nothing. They wouldn't even return his phone calls. They took his good name and they stole his soul..." — JLP

Continued on page 16

Now, You Can Destroy Any Attacker Using Never-Before-Seen "Killing" Techniques

Creator of Official U.S. Navy SEAL Combat System Releases Brutal New Gun & Knife Sections Of His Instructor Qualification Fighting Series

Can you disarm a man holding a knife to your throat? What if a car-jacker sticks a gun through your window — and your wife, girlfriend, or child is sitting beside you?

In an often brutal yet professionally direct approach, Jerry Peterson's new video series shows you how to destroy these attackers, while taking you to the ultimate level of fighting.

The culmination of a 2-year transformation from actual SCARS military archive techniques, his **Instructor Qualification Series** offers you the opportunity to learn what until now was taught to military Special Operations forces (SEALS, Rangers, Green Berets, etc.).

It's been called "the most brutally effective fighting system ever seen."

Before explaining more about this system, here's how Jerry Peterson, the creator of this system, became the first — and only — civilian ever to standardize, license and teach a hand-to-weapon fighting system to the United States military.

In 1989, Naval Special Warfare Command (NSWC), the group which controls all SEAL activity, was looking for ways to standardize hand-to-weapon combat techniques. After an exhaustive review, they had rejected every single martial art form in the world.

They found each completely unworkable in combat-oriented fighting situations where SEALS were in full gear, carrying 100# packs, and often knee-deep in water.

Amazing Scientific System

Then a SEAL NSWC officer (with black belts in 3 martial arts) saw Jerry Peterson's scientific fighting system. What he stumbled on wasn't martial arts. In fact it was unlike anything he'd ever seen before.

The SEAL officer watched in disbelief as a class of inexperienced students threw real punches for virtually 1 full hour, never repeating the same sequences. In one session he witnessed more fighting than most martial arts students see in a year.

Later, two top brass at NSWC saw the officer demonstrating moves he'd learned. But intrigue turned to doubt when they learned the originator was an ex-Army enlisted man.

Still they met with Jerry, as much out of admiration for his Vietnam record as anything (he spent 15 months as lead point for Charlie Company, the 173rd Airborne — one of the most decorated units of the war). As Vietnam vets, the SEAL officers figured Jerry at least would understand their needs.

Easily Defeats Decorated SEAL

But they were totally unprepared for what happened. To prove his system, Jerry Peterson and a highly-decorated SEAL Officer (and at 240, 100 pounds heavier than Jerry) went toe-to-toe — but at half speed. To the Officer's amazement he was instantly disabled and dropped to his knees.

Only then did he realize — had he not been talked out of going full speed by others who knew the awesome power of Jerry Peterson's system, his false confidence in his martial arts training and in his sheer size advantage would have left him with an arm broken as easily as a match stick!

In 5 short minutes these SEAL officers — men who had seen everything in the way of brutal fight-

ing, and who had virtually unlimited budgets to develop the SEALS into the world's best — were blown away by Jerry Peterson's *Autokinematic™* fighting system.

Officially Required SEAL Training

Following a pilot program at Command headquarters all SEALS began receiving this training. Still, hardheaded, cocky, non-believing SEALS, many with extensive martial arts backgrounds, constantly tested Jerry:

□ SEALS are the most proficient combat swimmers in the world. Yet 40-year-old Jerry (who wasn't a particularly good swimmer) "drowned" SEAL after SEAL in training. His scientific principles apply on any terrain.

□ SEALS are trained to run 20 miles in soft sand. But Jerry (who really wasn't in great shape) had them gasping just 5 minutes into his first workouts while he participated effortlessly. He used breathing techniques others had never seen (techniques he can teach you in minutes).

□ In Europe Jerry challenged a deployed SEAL platoon to pin him against a wall. All thought it a joke. Yet he escaped — from the grasp of 14 of the most proficient fighting men in the world (then showed it was no trick — simply physics, and easily learned).

Today SEALS use all these scientific techniques and many more. Since 1989, Navy SEALS go through a minimum of 40 and up to 600 rigorous hours of Jerry Peterson's training prior to deployment (often in intense, 24-hour a day sessions).

Top Government Officials Amazed

His system was demonstrated to Navy Admirals, a 4-Star General, and Congressional leaders — as well as the Secretary of the Navy and the U.S. Secretary of Defense!

Jerry was even called in prior to Desert Storm to brief the military on using *Neural Offensive Linguistics™* (a cornerstone of his system, it defines a mind set which eliminates all defensive thinking, allowing anyone, even you, to make instantaneously correct decisions in the midst of any hostile environment).

Devastating Power Gives You An Unfair Advantage

In his *HCS* video course Jerry Peterson introduced you to his revolutionary system.

Now, with the publication of *Jerry Peterson's SCAR-HCS Hand-To-Weapon* fighting system, Jerry leads you into the never-before-seen world of brutal, no-holds-barred gun, knife and club fighting — material you've never seen (unless you were in elite Special Operation forces).

You'll learn the same hand-to-weapon techniques, the same mental approaches, the same 'kill' sets Jerry developed for over 200 SEAL SCARS instructors. (These SCARS instructors now teach this system to all branches of the military Spec Op forces — Army, Navy and Air Force).

You'll know how to defeat, seriously disable and, when necessary, kill anyone threatening your life or the life of a loved one or friend!

Guaranteed To Work In Your Most Nightmarish Hostile Situation

Everything in his system was proven in the most intense war lab of the past 30 years — Vietnam!

But this isn't a course to impress friends at your Karate studio. The Instructor Qualification Series is Jerry Peterson's complete professional fighting system.

And professional fighting has but one objective: to defeat an attacker incredibly fast. In 29 years Jerry's longest fight lasted but 5 seconds!

This system is only for those who need a powerful yet amazingly simple system (simple because it's based on quickly-mastered scientific principles not a difficult art form) to protect them in life-threatening situations.

No Navy SEAL has ever lost in hand-to-hand combat when correctly applying Jerry's system! And they never will (nor will you) because ... his system is undefeatable!

This Totally Integrated System Enables You To Destroy Any Attacker — With Absolutely No Fear Or Hesitation!

Cheap imitators advertise fighter after fighter after fighter — a hodgepodge of unrelated, nonscientific moves. Now they even lie, hoping to con you into believing SEALS would lose to these guys. But they know. No one beats a Peterson-trained SEAL.

These 'wanna-bes' teach one move if an attacker swings a fist at you, another if he's got a knife.

But Jerry Peterson's scientific system teaches you why you MUST use the exact same techniques — with a weapon or without! What everyone else teaches is wrong. Just ask the SEALS!

The imitators claim they've trained Navy SEALS. But Jerry Peterson is the sole creator of the official hand-to-hand and hand-to-weapon combat fighting system used by the SEALS today.

He's the only civilian with a Naval Special Warfare course number (*SCARS-CFC# K-431-0096*) plus a new \$2.5 million military facility predicated solely on his SCARS training.

The Navy SEAL 'wanna-be' trainers? They've got nothing — no official status, no course number.

Free Special Report Reveals GUN AND KNIFE Fighting Secrets

Jerry Peterson's system is brutal. It has to be. Yet it's surprisingly easy to learn. It requires NO athletic ability, NO speed, NO conditioning.

And because his videos offer an unprecedented 3 camera angles (including a new overhead shot), you can learn this scientific system in just days; specific techniques often in just minutes.

Jerry has created a Free special report revealing the amazing details about his scientific weapons fighting system — the system which has made the Navy SEALS an undefeatable fighting force.

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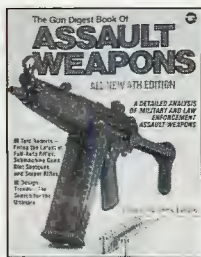
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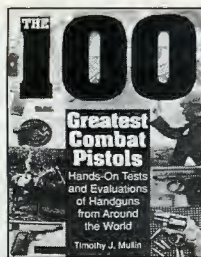


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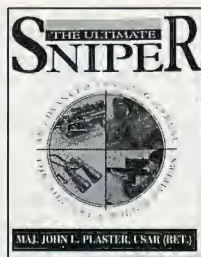
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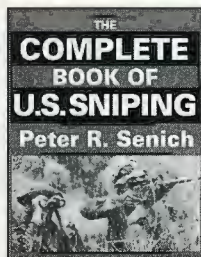
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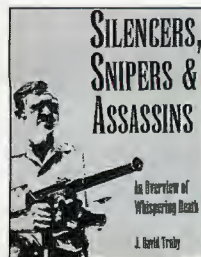
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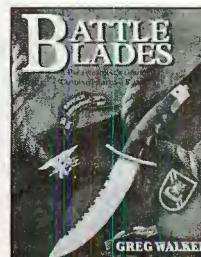
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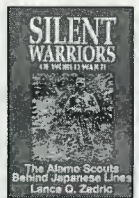
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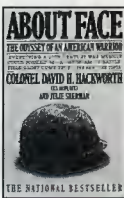
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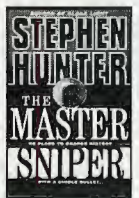
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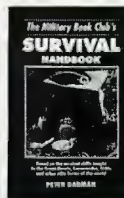
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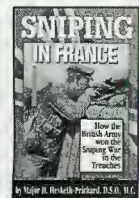
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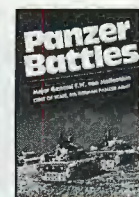
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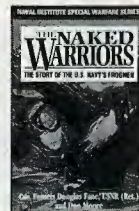
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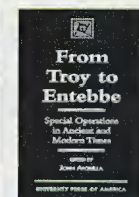
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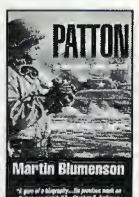
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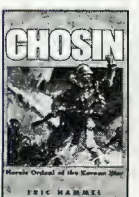
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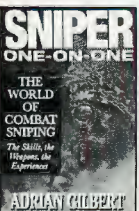
2683 \$24.95



2758 \$18.95x



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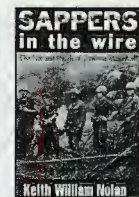
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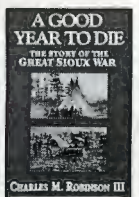
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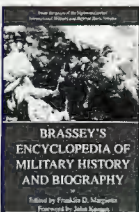
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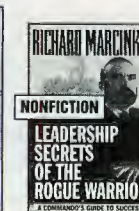
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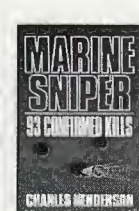
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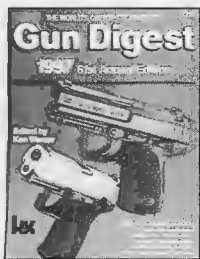
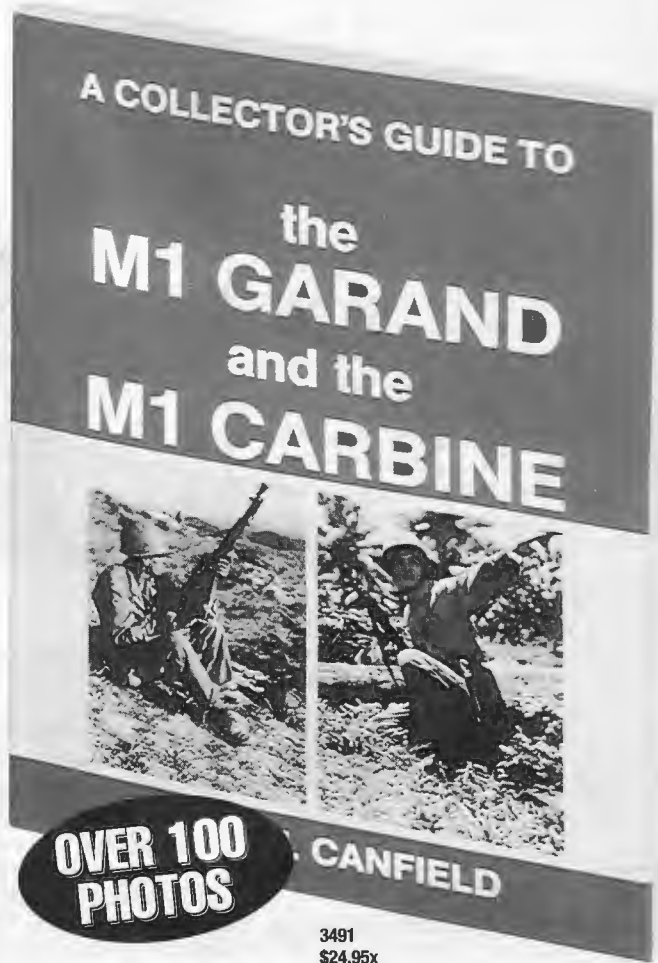
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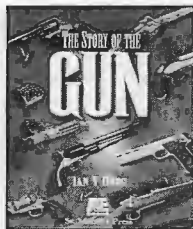
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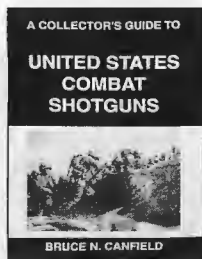
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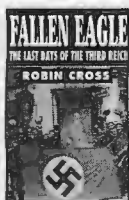


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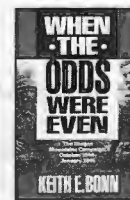
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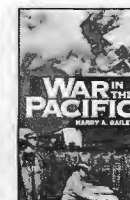
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MEDICOS OPPOSE JAP-SPONSORED GUN GRAB

Dr. Edgar Suter, national chair of Doctors for Integrity in Policy Research (DIPR), is asking public support in opposing two UN measures sponsored by the Japanese government that would disarm private citizens world-wide. "The first of these is 'Measures to Regulate Firearms' under the auspices of the Crime Prevention Division of ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council). The second initiative is under discussion as the 'Experts Panel on Light Weapons' of the Center for Disarmament Affairs of the General Assembly of the UN.

"In order to participate in the process it is necessary to obtain recognition by the UN as an 'NGO' (non-governmental organization). Our group ... is applying for such status ..."

Suter noted 'DIPR needs your financial support to pursue the application process and to participate meaningfully in these discussions, the participants of which, as you might expect, are mostly socialist and/or hostile to individual rights ... This is an extremely expensive and important process. Without your help DIPR will not be able to participate. We want to be on the front lines for you. Please be there for us with your financial support. Even small contributions are welcome.'

Please send checks payable to "DIPR" to Edgar A. Suter, M.D., National Chair DIPR, 5201 Norris Canyon Rd., #20, San Ramon, CA 94583-5405.

EAT ALL YOU CAN EAT

Remember when the Army's "don't ask, don't tell" policy dealt with what was *really* in those green cans of C-Rats? The question was still moot when the MRE (Meal, Rejected by Ethiopians) replaced C-Rats as staple fare. Some mourned the loss of Franks And Beans, a few missed the Beef And Peas With Gravy, but nobody favorably remembered the Ham And Mammies. One can of Peaches or Fruit Cocktail would get you a dozen cans of Ham And Mammies any day, and the only reason anybody would swap was to get something to trade to the locals. About the only good thing to do with C-Rats and K-Rats was that at least you got a small pack of off-brand, brown-spotted smokes in each meal to help take the taste out of your mouth.

The Army has decided it no longer wants to contribute to the delinquency of GIs by passing out smokes, and it might be better to not put the bad taste in a GI's mouth to begin with. Thus the MREs, which were definitely a leg up on the old C-Rats, are getting a new menu-venue. Responding to complaints from the Gulf War, the Army Soldier Systems Command in Natick, Mass., is introducing some 24 new MRE entrées for service by 1998, including several kosher and vegetarian delights: such mouth-watering entrées as pasta with veggies in tomato sauce,



Jamaican-style boneless pork chops, cheese tortellini, beef teriyaki, and black bean and rice burritos. Of course, an 1/8-ounce bottle of Tabasco still provides the remedy for taste. And they come with an exothermic bag heater that warms 'em up when you add water to the salt-iron-magnesium mix.

Technology has wrought a number of improvements in GI fare since the canned woolly and dried spuds of WWI, and they're mostly for the better. We know one old vet who is still incensed that they put saltpeter in his mashed potatoes in WWI, and he complains that it's finally starting to work.

OLD SOLDIERS EVER FLY

The Air Force plans to retain a fleet of 71 B-52 bombers through the year 2040, making the youngest of the fleet more than 80 years old. Congress, already on record against term limits, wants to keep 94 B-52s flying, but if the Air Force gets its way 23 B-52s will be retired in fiscal year 1997.

Sustainability studies are underway in such areas as how to keep software and radars up-to-date, fuel systems maintainable and electronic countermeasures effective against emerging threats. Although the USAF believes the TF33 power plant is supportable for the life of the bomber, Boeing has submitted an unsolicited proposal to lease new engines to the Air Force.

Gives a new meaning to the term "third generation aircraft," doesn't it?

GUNSMITHING ON-LINE

The Yavapai College (Prescott, Ariz.) gunsmithing program, an on-site, hands-on program since 1979, will soon be offering

gunsmithing courses on-line. Courses will be available for students of the Colt 1911, police armorers and other general topics. As of January 1997, students will be able to take courses for college credit from anywhere they can access the Internet and the U.S. Mail. For more information contact the Yavapai College Gunsmithing Department at jenijohnson@yavapai.cc.az.us or phone: 520-776-2359; fax: 520-776-2355.

SUPREME COURT DENIES GUN APPEAL

Without comment, the Supreme Court has declined to rule on the case of California businessman Douglas R. Hickman, who had sued in an effort to change Los Angeles County's concealed weapon's policies, claiming that a discriminatory policy of concealed-carry permits favored celebrities but often denied the right to private citizens who often had more need for such a permit. The crux of Hickman's case was that he had a constitutional right to carry a weapon, and the LA County sheriff was denying that right. The San Francisco 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that "The Second Amendment is a right held by the states and does not protect the possession of a weapon by a private citizen." In declining to rule on Hickman's appeal, the Supreme Court did not set a national precedent — but the fact they did not disagree with the 9th Circuit's does not bode well for Second Amendment rights.

BULLET BAN IN BRITAIN?

Chief Superintendent Brian Mackenzie, president of the Superintendents' Associa-

tion of England and Wales, has called for a ban on ammunition components, saying "this is an important and major loophole in the firearms legislation which needs to be closed." Mackenzie is based in County Durham, where officers recently raided a house and found component parts to make 600 rounds of ammunition [oh my stars!]. The British press reported a "survey" that "found that 2,000 bullets [sic] for a semi-automatic handgun can be produced from an outlay of 4,000 pounds on equipment, including a bullet-making press and gunpowder-measuring scales, and ammunition parts."

SUPREME COURT TO HEAR BRADY ACT CASES

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear arguments in the case of Mack and Pritz vs. United States, the legal challenge to the "Brady" Act by Sheriff Mack of Arizona, et al., at 1000 hours on 3 December 1996.

MAX MANUS DIES

Famed Norwegian resistance leader and national hero Max Manus has died at the age of 81. An adventurer who volunteered to fight for the Finns during the 1939-40 Winter War with Russia, Manus was recruited by Norwegian resistance forces and trained in England after the Nazi invasion and occupation of Norway in World War II, returning to Norway where his incredible exploits kept Norwegian spirits high and severely hampered Nazi German activity in his home country. Although his main target was shipping in Oslo harbor, he targeted any German military or industrial target, counting among his trophies more than 100 German warplanes, and even a battleship.

SELOUS SCOUT FOUNDER CONFOUNDS ATTACK

Lieutenant Colonel Ron Reid-Daly, former SAS officer and founder of the Rhodesian Selous Scouts, recently was shot in the leg outside his Johannesburg home in an apparent robbery attempt. Having just dismounted his vehicle to open his driveway gate, Reid-Daly quickly drew his own weapon and drove off the attackers, whom he describes as "Two worthless pieces of obscenity."

Reid-Daly commanded the Selous Scouts from their inception in 1973 until their disbandment in 1979, during which time the multi-racial unit became the most efficient guerrilla-fighting unit in the world, accounting for the demise of 68% of all communist insurgents killed during the course of the Rhodesian war, while losing less than 40 Selous Scouts. Reid-Daly presently is general manager of South Africa's largest private security organization, currently numbering more than 15,000 throughout South Africa. ☒

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SAG-1: LIGHT, BATON, ALARM, PEPPER SPRAY

Six-cells became immediately popular with police and security personnel when they were introduced, as they provided the strong light required, and when held by the head would pivot as a baton to quickly whap a perp 'longside the head if he got fancy ideas. They also adequately serve civilians who need a light and an innocuous defensive weapon on occasion, but you have to let the threat get uncomfortably close to use a conventional six-cell as a weapon.



Now comes Walter Scott International, with their patented SAG-1 six-cell flashlight, alarm and pepper-gas spray all in one handy unit. The rechargeable six-cell light comes with a krypton bulb and is adjustable from a wide-angle flood to a narrow, far-reaching beam. The nominal 130 decibel warbling siren-alarm will disturb, alert or bring help, and it must be turned off once turned on. The in-line pepper gas spray (3% oleoresin capsicum, 3% mustard) gives 40-50 1/2-second bursts, effective in a range of 6-9 feet, from a replaceable canister. And, as always, the 18x1-1/2-inch housing makes a suitable baton. A spare bulb and an AC/DC charging unit come with it, and it will function with regular alkaline batteries. Precisely machined from aluminum, it comes with a one-year guarantee, but should provide decades of service.

Available from the innovative folks at Walter Scott International, Dept. SOF, 1683 Winchester Rd., P.O. Box 1270, Bensalem, PA 19020-4510; phone: 215-638-2448; fax: 215-638-9108.

HARD-USE HORSEHIDE

In an era of extraneous bells and whistles, it's refreshing to find a *new* product designed with absolute function in mind, and executed in a competent and straightforward fashion from the very best materials. When a designer and maker has confidence enough in his work to know it is unnecessary to add useless "features" to an item simply to help sell it, it inspires confidence in the user as well.



Such is the new line of Insearch holsters by Derry Gallagher down in McAllen, Texas. Not Bauhaus, not minimalist, not Spartan: just unabashed, simple excellence. Gallagher's holsters are bench-made from the finest domestic-tanned horse hide. They are hand finished to fit only a specific handgun: Each is oiled, dyed and then hand rubbed. Inside-the-pants models such as the "Texican" are given a special moisture-resistant final finish. Available in brown, black or tan, three basic models are offered by

Gallagher: the "A.D.S. Scabbard" (left), the "Texican" (right) and the "Jeffee," a belt-slot and tunnel loop design that Gallagher says is a hair faster for some folks than the A.D.S. Each model is available in straight top draw, fast draw or J.W. Radical.

These holsters are hand-made, top quality gear that's good to go with — a refreshing departure in these days of Kevlar and Velcro. Contact Derry Gallagher at P.O. Box 720536, McAllen, TX 78504.

EXPRESS POCKET HOLSTER

The "Express" pocket holster solves the problem of a handgun "printing" by attaching a wallet-shaped leather flap to the leading edge of the holster. This allows for a full firing-grip right out of the leather, and assures that the holster will stay in the pocket when the gun is drawn. The Express is now available for most small and medium-frame autos, and for 2-inch barrel revolvers. Designed for efficient strong- or weak-side front-pocket carry, this



holster also works well when worn in the back pocket. Available in right or left hand; rough-out natural finish only. Made by Aker Leather Products, Dept. SOF, 2248 Main St., Suite 6, Chula Vista, CA 91911; phone: 619-423-5182; fax: 619-423-1363.

BANGKOK GUIDE

Written by a man who goes there four to six times annually, the *Man's Guide to Bangkok* is a great compendium of *practical*, constantly updated, been-there, done-that information. Where to go, eat, sleep, party; how to get along with the locals; doing business; traveling on the cheap. Simply the best \$3 you'll spend on a Bangkok trip, postpaid from Paul Thode, Dept. SOF, 360 Grand #113, Oakland, CA 94602.

SHELL OUT

When you need to grab them, a loose pocketful of shotgun shells is about as useful as a loose pocketful of bass plugs. Belt loops usually hold shells secure, but you have to fight them out one at a time, an unpleasant scenario if you're under fire. The Shell Out is an ABS polymer ammo caddy that securely holds and readily dispenses 12-



gauge shotgun shells one or two at a time. Depending on your girth, you can carry a few or several of these six-round caddies handily on your belt, ready for instant reloading. Clever, simple, essential. Also a handy way to keep them on the shelf. Available from Jack Couper, Dept. SOF, 2520 N. Lincoln Ave., Suite 50, Loveland, CO 80538. ☞

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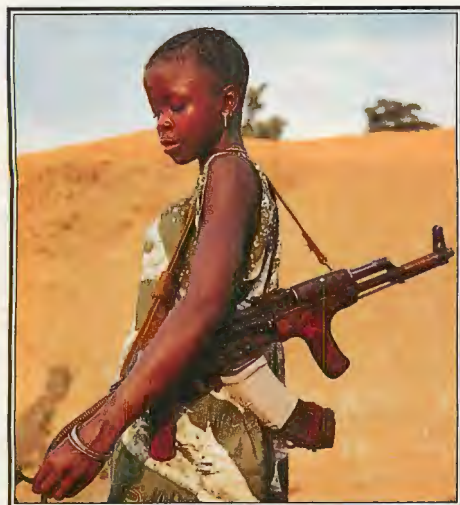
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Combat Weaponcraft

by Clint Smith

Photos courtesy author

ENTRY-Level Positions

The application of entry tactics generally falls into two categories: First is the dynamic method which invokes the theory of speed and surprise to generate an overpowering presence with which the opponent either complies or faces a violence of action that deletes their gene pool. The second option is the covert or stealth mode that is a more systematic method with movements that are effective and efficient. In this mode you should always maintain control, probing, clearing and holding ground as required. We will only address the second, or covert or stealth mode in this column (though some of the movements discussed may seem to be applied rather quickly such as the physical act of passing through the door).

As we start to look at doors and doorways they quickly divide into two categories: The first is the locked door which further branches into locked exterior and locked interior. There may not appear to be many differences with the exception of the jam and door type, for example a hard or armored exterior door. However, these are special animals unto themselves. The second variation, and the one we

address in this article, is the open door, doorway or interior door that is closed but not locked.

Doors by design are man-made funnels intended to constrict the movement and flow of traffic. This restriction of flow also makes them a bullet magnet. As such, there are some basic rules, including but not limited to: 1) Don't stand in front of the doorway when opening it or while it is open. The backlight helps to promote you as a target indicator. 2) Don't lead with your muzzle while searching or entering the doorway. The muzzle is a dead giveaway of where you are. If you are not careful it can cause a weapon retention fight. In a worst case scenario you may have your weapon taken, only to be used against you.

With those rules in mind, the act of clearing the doorway can be divided into three parts: the approach, the search and the entry. The first part of your approach should include the application of the two "Ms". *Maximize* the distance to the threat and *Minimize* yourself as a target.

Is the door open or closed?



Approach the door, determine where the last safe place is, decide how the door opens, conduct the search and enter. (inset) The walls and door between you and the threat are probably at best, concealment. *Do not assume they are cover!* You must move to whatever protection is available.



Maximize the distance to the threat and *Minimize* yourself as a target. As you start the search, stay as far away from the doorway as possible. Working from one side of the door to the other, position yourself so you are able to look as far as possible into the room. Be prepared to back away.



Give yourself as much distance as you can with your muzzle between you and the threat. Visually slice the open doorway moving as smooth and as quick as possible, but *not fast*.

Professional Locksmithing Tools

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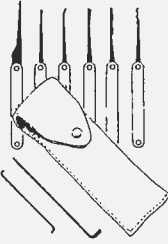
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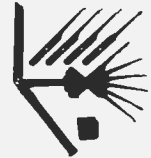
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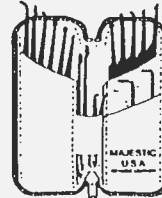


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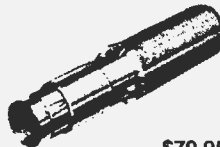
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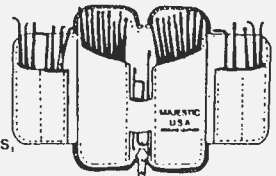
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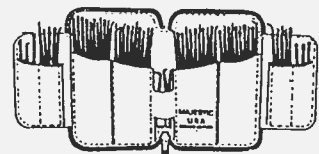
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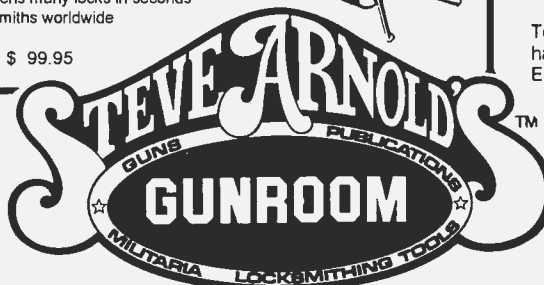
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The opening and clearing of a closed door is a little more complicated only in the sense of opening the door. On the approach check the hinges of the door. Hinge pins out means the door opens to you. No visible hinge pins — the door opens inward. Be aware of pocket doors that have no hinges or door knobs. To open this type of door you will need to slide it into the wall. Spring loaded doors require that you hold the door by hand, foot or body positioning. In this type of door you will be stuck closer to the threat and unable to search unless you can block or obstruct the door by using a piece of furniture or by wedging or shoving a carpet rig into the door's path.

Example: The door you are about to open has the knob on the right and hinges on the left. You can see the hinge pins. This door is going to open to you from the right to the left. If possible, set up on the right side using your left hand to open the door and step back smoothly while going back to a two hand firing grip. Try not to fling the door too hard so it opens, whacks the wall, and goes back shut. At the same time, don't open the door too slowly so that someone inside has a lot of time to get ready or have a large portion of your arm and torso to shoot at.

If I had to open the same door in a hallway, I would check the doorknob and hinges as I approached the door and place my left foot in a position so that if the door was kicked or pushed as I started to enter,

the door would strike my foot, not my head or torso. Keeping the muzzle between me and the threat area and out of the arc of the door-swing, grasp the door knob with your left hand and step back as far as possible as you open the door.

Many of our students are concerned that the threat may shoot through the door as they stand in front of it in the doorway. This is a legitimate concern, but very hard to defend against. Understandably, you would think that if they are shooting at me through the door I'll just shoot back. This is a good concept, but a poor application and one of the dilemmas of life. The people you are fighting are probably not worried about bystanders or hostages, but just let you shoot one round and hit the wrong guy and it's "get a lawyer for life" time.

Once the door is open, or if during your approach you find the door open, you begin the visual search. As you start the search, stay as far away from the doorway as possible. Working from one side of the door to the other, position yourself so you are able to look as far as possible into the room. Back away. Give yourself as much distance as you can with your muzzle between you and the threat. Visually slice the open doorway, moving as smoothly and as quickly as possible, but *not fast*. Your movement should be arc shaped similar to a rainbow curve, visually slicing the new area acquired with each lateral step of the curve until you reach the wall on the other side of

the open door. By completely working to either side of the doorway you will be able to see as far as possible into the room.

At this point you may be concerned that your movement may allow your opponent to see you and that you may be away from cover. If during this clearing movement you see them, or they see you, the fight may start. Stepping back in the direction from which you were coming will allow the wall or door to provide what little *concealment* may be available. The walls and door between you and the threat are probably at best, concealment. *Do not assume they are cover!* You must move to whatever protection is available.

The third and last part of the entry is going through the doorway. While conducting your search, decide where you want to end up in the room after you go in. When entering you can *cross over*: Start on the outside of the door on one side and then go through the door to the opposite side of the doorway inside the room. Another option is a *button hook* entry which starts outside on one side of the door and hooks into the room so that when you are inside you are on the same side of the door again. Put your back against what you feel is a safe area, such as the last place you looked before you came through. The key point is to pass through the doorway smoothly, quickly and quietly to a safe (cleared) area.

Continued on page 69

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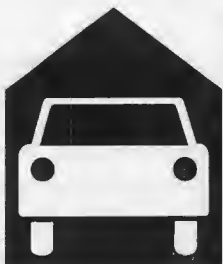
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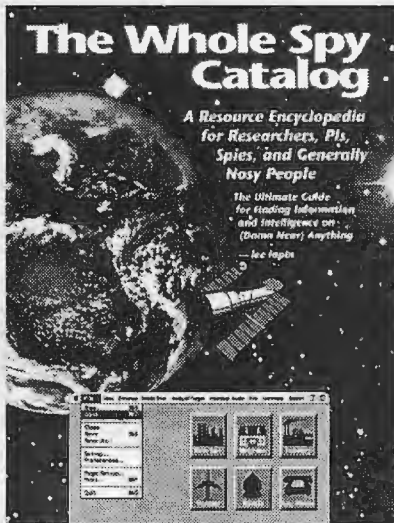
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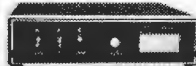
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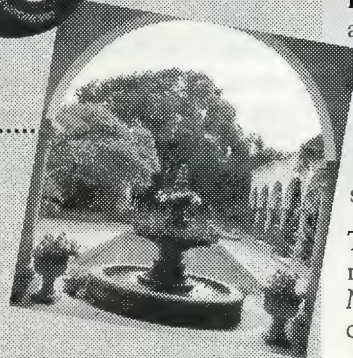
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- 2A. For each Official Entry Form you wish to be sent by mail, send a separate, self-addressed, stamped #10 envelope to: SHOTGUN NEWS ENTRY FORM REQUEST, P.O. Box 5081, Blair, NE 68009. Requests must be received by 2/11/97. Limit one request per envelope. Completed entry forms must be received at the address listed on the entry form by the last day of each month indicated in Rule 1 to be eligible for that month's prize drawing (and subsequent monthly prize drawings) and/or by 3/11/97 to be eligible for the Grand Prize/Trip Prize drawings.**
- RANDOM DRAWING:** Monthly winners will be selected in a random drawing on or about the 20th day of the month following the month of drawing eligibility from among all eligible entries received by D.L. Blair, Inc., an independent judging organization whose decisions are final on matters related to this program. Grand Prize and Trip Prize winners will be selected in a random drawing conducted on or about 2/12/97 from among all eligible entries received throughout the duration of this program. Winners will be notified by mail. Odds of winning will depend upon the total number of all eligible entries received in a given month for monthly prizes and/or over the course of the entire promotion for the Grand Prize and Trip Prize.
- PRIZE & APPROXIMATE RETAIL VALUE:** (1) Grand Prize consisting of a Shotgun News model new Jeep Wrangler with optional soft-top & doors, AM-FM radio and 5-speed transmission, (\$15,000) or \$15,000 cash; (1) Trip Prize — A 5-day, 4-night deluxe hunting expedition (White Wing & Morning Dove) in Mexico for four, including air transportation (from major U.S. city), lodging at the "Hacienda Cazadores", three meals per day, guide and transportation to hunting areas, (Shells, licenses, gun permits, guns, etc. not included) (\$6,000) OR a 5-day, 4-night Mexican vacation for four in a restored 300-year-old Hacienda, includes air transportation (from major U.S. city), two meals per day, Fiesta, sightseeing and Jeep tours (\$6,000). Monthly Prizes: March: (1) 1st Prize — Ishapore Enfield 2A Rifle plus a Weibly & Scott Brass Flare Pistol (\$279.90); (1) 2nd Prize — a Shooter's Vise Ultimate Pack (\$127.98); April: (1) 1st Prize — a Browning Hunter Gold, 12 gauge self-loading shotgun (\$700); (1) 2nd Prize — a Shooter's Vise Ultimate Pack (\$127.98); May: (1) 1st Prize — Schofield Revolver (\$795); (1) 2nd Prize — a Shooter's Vise Ultimate Pack (\$127.98); June: (1) 1st Prize — Model 308 Guardia Civil Spanish Mauser, Caliber .308 Win, complete with sling and muzzle cover in Special Select Condition, plus a Model 98/29 Persian Mauser Caliber 7.92 mm (8 mm Mauser) complete with bayonet & leather sling in Special Select Condition (\$459.90); (1) 2nd Prize — a Shooter's Vise Ultimate Pack (\$127.98); July: (1) 1st Prize — a 1911 A-1 Springfield, 45 Caliber (\$459); (1) 2nd Prize — a Shooter's Vise Ultimate Pack (\$127.98); August: (1) 1st Prize — Ishapore Enfield 2A Rifle plus a Model 98K Mauser WWII carbine Caliber 7.92 (8 mm Mauser) with Winter Trigger guard in Special Select Condition (\$399.90); (1) 2nd Prize — a Shooter's Vise Ultimate Pack (\$127.98); September: (1) 1st Prize — a Browning Hunter Gold, 12 gauge self-loading shotgun (\$700); (1) 2nd Prize — a Shooter's Vise Ultimate Pack (\$127.98); October: (1) 1st Prize — a 1911 A-1 Springfield, 45 Caliber (\$459); (1) 2nd Prize — a Shooter's Vise Ultimate Pack (\$127.98); November: (1) 1st Prize — a Browning Hunter Gold, 12 gauge self-loading shotgun (\$700); (1) 2nd Prize — a Shooter's Vise Ultimate Pack (\$127.98); December: (1) 1st Prize — Parker Knife Collection, Kentucky Derby set of 12 knives, engraved blades each with a different Derby winner, bone handles, framed under glass (\$450); (1) 2nd Prize — a Shooter's Vise Ultimate Pack (\$127.98); January 1997: (1) 1st Prize — a Classic Buffalo Hunters' Sharps Rifle in 45/70 caliber with a 28" heavy octagonal barrel with tang sights recreated by Navy Arms Company, Inc. (\$875); (1) 2nd Prize — Coach Gun, side-by-side, 12 gauge Stoeper 16A (\$400).
- GENERAL RULES:** Open only to U.S. residents who, as of February 28, 1996, are 21 years or older. Employees of Snell Publishing Co., Inc., Shotgun News, their affiliates, subsidiaries, advertising and promotion agencies and the immediate family members and/or those living in the same household of each are not eligible. Void where prohibited by law. Winner may make no substitution or transfer of prize. All federal, state and local laws, insurance, licensing, registration and title fees are the sole responsibility of the winner. All federal, state and local laws and regulations apply. Potential winners must execute any required Affidavit of Eligibility/Release of Liability/Prize Acceptance Form within 15 days of attempted notification. Noncompliance within this time period may result in disqualification and an alternate may be selected. Return of any prize notification as undeliverable will result in disqualification and an alternate will be selected. Sponsor reserves the right to substitute prize of equal or greater value. Limit one prize per household (with exception of Grand Prize and Trip Prize). Acceptance of prize constitutes permission to the sponsor and its agencies to use winner's name and/or likeness for purposes of advertising and trade without further compensation, unless prohibited by law. (Note: If hunt expedition is selected by Trip Prize winner, hunt trip must be taken during November 1997. If vacation is selected by Trip Prize winner it must be taken in November 1997 or between January 2, 1998 and March 31, 1998. Trip Prize must be taken on dates specified by sponsor. Travel blackout dates will apply.) All traveling companions must be 21 years of age or older and will be required to execute a release of liability prior to departure. No mechanically reproduced entries permitted. All firearms will be transferred to the respective winners through federally licensed firearms dealers. All winners must be eligible for firearm's possession under all federal and respective state laws. In the event the sponsor is prohibited from awarding prize to winner as a matter of federal/state/local law or for any reason whatsoever (e.g. felony conviction, licensing requirements, etc.) prize will be awarded to an alternate winner. Not responsible for lost, late, postage due, illegible, damaged or misdirected mail/entries or entries not forwarded to prize headquarters in time for the random drawings. By participating in this promotion, entrants agree to be bound by the Official Rules and the decisions of the judges.
- For the names of the winners, available after May 31, 1997, send a separate, stamped, self-addressed (#10) envelope to: Shotgun News Winners, P.O. Box 5082, Blair, NE 68009.

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I Was There

by John E. Baker

First Scud



courtesy author

Scud's aftermath in Dhahran. "Suddenly, a distant bang shuddered from a long way beyond the dark horizon. As it sped closer its pitch upped to a loud screech. This was not one of our planes. Then a thundering explosion shook the windows. Whatever it was, it was close."

A sour and uneasy sense of foreboding settled in over most of the Americans at the hot and sultry port of Dammam. Soldiers were not allowed anywhere without their protective masks and MOPP (Mission Oriented Protective Posture) gear. They had been alerted that a deadly array of gases and nerve agents could descend at any time, courtesy of Baghdad's Butcher, Saddam Hussein.

We learned to sleep, write, read and work wearing protective masks which in that heat were total bitches. But even worse than the stifling heat was the isolation: It was almost impossible to communicate with anyone when you were "mopped up."

On 16 January 1991, one day past the deadline for Iraqi troops to peacefully leave Kuwait, the line had been drawn in the sand, yet nothing had happened. Troops still ambled about tending to their normal duties: unloading trucks and ships and readying themselves for forays into the endless desert. But it was obvious to all — yet confirmed by none — that something *major* was in the wind.

Arguments had broken out all day that President Bush might be turning tail, but nobody really had a firm clue what path our commander in chief was going to follow. We were desperate for news and tried to tune into the Desert Shield network, anxious to uncover any shred of truth. All we caught was a pre-recorded basketball game. A war looming, our butts on the block, and we're supposed to care about the NBA?

Around 0230 Saudi time we gave up and most settled in for another go at a fitful night's sleep. Others were still antsy, banging around in the halls, just waiting for any news or anything to happen.

We slept in our BDUs out of that nagging feeling that something was up and kept our masks and virgin MOPP gear within easy reach. The MOPP gear was referred to as an "ice pack." It attached to the back of our web gear. Being on your lower back, it was a literal pain in the rear to sit down on anything that wasn't a stool. (Another DoD contribution to the welfare of the troops.)

Somebody with a loud boombox, by pure chance, tapped into a radio station carrying news produced by American networks. The radio blared loudly: "Hostilities have now commenced in Saudi Arabia. ... Desert Shield has given way to Desert Storm." Nice of our commander in chief to pass on the word.

In the near distance, the roar of jets from the airport caught our attention. One after another screamed off to nail distant targets: maybe Kuwait or Baghdad. With that we knew that the war had kicked off in earnest.

Within seconds, the barracks resembled an anthill just ignited by a flame. Men, wild with adrenaline rushes, sprinted up and down the halls, making those macho, gung-ho hoots perfected so well in boot camp.

The shrill rumble of the jets continued. I wondered just how many thousands of planes we had in the Gulf?

We picked up on shouted orders to hustle back to our rooms and cozy up to our gear. But the excitement of our first action kept many of the guys clustered around windows aching to catch glimpses of our jets winging their way into the dark skies. In everyone's patriotic exhilaration, it never occurred to us that we were prime targets for prompt and deadly retaliation by a thoroughly angered Saddam Hussein. After all, the city of Riyadh was

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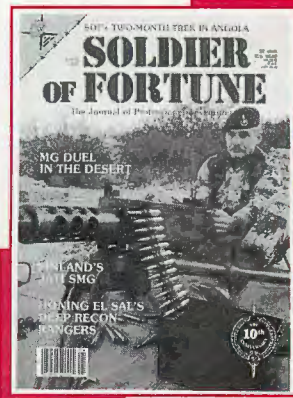
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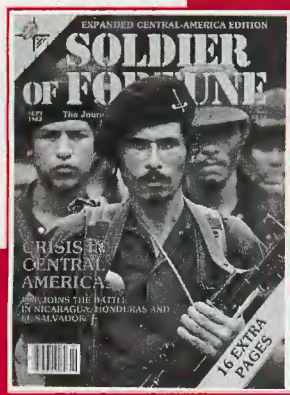
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nearby and the port of Dhahran was just down the avenue.

I sat on my cot listening to our sorties still tearing off into the early a.m. blackness, and tried to not act as jacked-up as everyone else (though I was lying to myself). My buddies still were jammed tight to the windows like jabbering, awestruck children awaiting Santa on Christmas Eve.

Suddenly, a distant bang shuddered from a long way beyond the dark horizon. As it sped closer its pitch upped to a loud screech. This was not one of our planes. Then a thundering explosion shook the windows. Whatever it was, it was close.

Everyone scattered away from the windows. The Rambos stopped making their gung-ho noises.

Then somebody screamed, "Gas!"

Another Scud missile screamed inbound. The round crashed in, even closer to our position.

Finally, a deafening air raid siren wailed. Everyone donned their protective mask with shaking hands. No doubt, God fielded a ton of prayers in the ensuing seconds. Guys tore open the clear, hard plastic of their "ice packs" and clumsily pulled on the protective gear - this time for real.

Another dull thud impacted far away. This one sounded different, and it illuminated the sky for a few seconds. Then a larger, louder explosion rocked the horizon. Later we learned this was a Patriot missile sacking an inbound Scud.

We sat helpless, sweating, frustrated and useless in the heavy darkness. My protective mask squeezed my temples and I could feel a headache begin to throb. Men tried everything to keep their minds off the MOPP-level misery and fear of more incoming. Many counted their breaths echoing inside their masks to keep their minds from what was happening.

A soldier hunched in the corner of the darkened corridor locked and loaded his M16. What was he going to do? Shoot down a Scud?

Finally the fear and isolation took over. Many were restless and began to saunter up and down the halls, then eventually filter outside. The air raid sirens would stop, but as we began to contemplate ditching our stifling masks, another Scud would impact. Then the sirens, for the umpteenth time, would crank up again.

After five hours of redundant "general quarters," the sky began to lighten. Five of us were perched on a picnic table watching the dawn when a large white bird passed overhead. I think everyone's light bulb flicked on at the same time. If there was gas in the air, the bird would have punched out, beak-down, in the sand.

One of us, a Vietnam veteran, broke the ice and was the first to unmask. His hair was matted and wet. He had a *oh-hum* expression on his face, like he'd expected something a bit more serious, a bit more thrilling.

"Fuck it," he said as he snatched a pack of cigarettes. ☞

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SLICK WILLIE WATCH

POLICIES AND PERSONS: FAILED, TRAVEAILED OR JAILED

Shortly before the elections, *Boston Globe* columnist Jeff Jacoby compiled a list of 40 reasons why Bill Clinton should be turned out of office. Readers responded with more to compile another 40 with spares. We thought it might help take the measure of this presidency to review some of the better reasons, so here is a sampling in no particular order of magnitude or time:

... according to the General Accounting Office, ethics investigations of the Clintons and their aides are costing taxpayers more than \$1 million a month ... key Clinton adviser on "family values" and "dedicated family man" Dick Morris resigned when favorite hooker told all to tabloids ... according to the Secret Service, more than 40 White House aides have a history of serious drug abuse ... Clinton's lawyers argued that Paula Jones' sexual harassment lawsuit should be postponed until he leaves office because [draft-dodger] Clinton is on "active duty" as commander in chief ... in a "completely honest bureaucratic snafu" Clinton aides rifled the confidential FBI files of more than 900 Republican opponents ... missing files, shredded files, stonewalled files, carted-out-of-Vince-Foster's-office-in-the-dead-of-night files ... innocent travel office staffers were fired on Hillary's orders ... the distaff half of the "two-for-one blue-plate special" was confirmed as saying "where is that motherf**ker" in the White House while waiting for her hus-

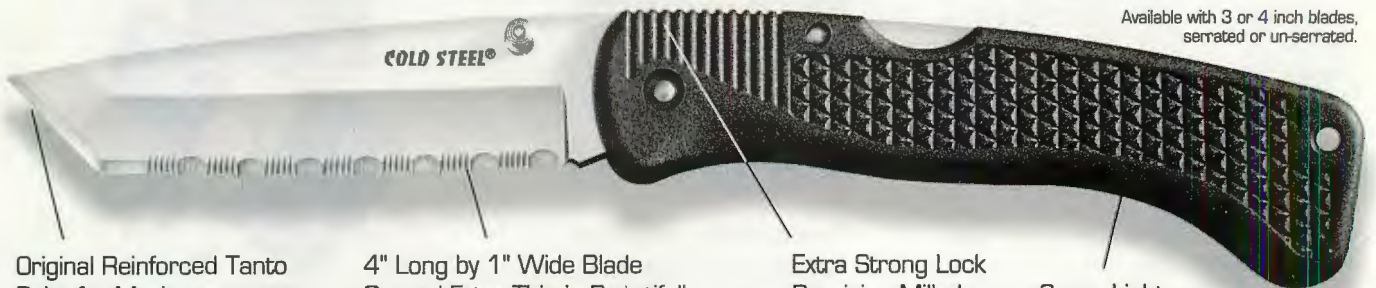
band to show up for his inauguration ... a historic first: the first lady called before a grand jury ... a top private school for Chelsea, but no vouchers for school children of the Great Unwashed *who want* the same choices ... the Clintons donate their used underwear to charity for a tax write-off, and do not report Hillary's incredible [and legally questionable] profits from insider commodities trading until they were exposed in 1994 ... Hillary's chats with Eleanor Roosevelt ... "Clinton's an unusually good liar. Unusually good. Do you realize that?" *Dem. U.S. Sen. [and Navy SEAL MOH recipient] Bob Kerrey of Nebraska...*

... as candidate Clinton said "[Bush] hasn't fought a real war on crime and drugs. I will." As president he slashed the Office of National Drug Control Policy, as teen-age drug use doubled during his first three years in office ... his first priority in the first week in office was to get gays in the military ... promised a "cabinet that looks like America" [his part of America looks better than ours, as his cabinet contained 14 lawyers and 10 millionaires] ... promised 100,000 more police on the streets: Seen any yet? ... promised "a tax cut for the middle class:" seen it yet? ... hiked the gasoline tax to its highest rate ever ... Clinton's tax increase on Social Security recipients hit 5.5 million old folks ... *the average per-capita tax-burden of an American rose 25.8% during Clinton's four years...*

...Clinton chose to celebrate the 50th anniversary of V-E Day in Russia — Nazi Germany's ally in invading Poland and starting World War II ... at a WW II military cemetery in Italy he had one of his staffers turn an American flag upside-down, so he could fix it at

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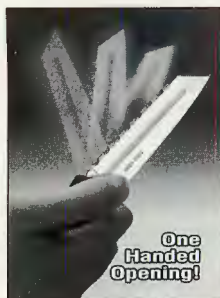
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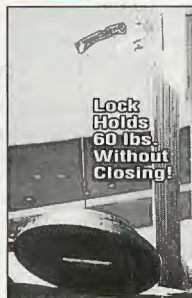
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[another, endless] photo op ... on the same trip, Clinton had staffers plant a pile of rocks on Omaha Beach in Normandy so that he could make them into a cross for another contrived, bogus photo op ...

LONG ARM OF THE UNLAWFUL

In 1991 and 1992, Joseph Farah founded the Western Journalism Center (WJC). After considerable frustration and expense, WJC was recognized by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as a tax-exempt educational foundation, sponsoring investigative journalism inherently suspicious of big government.

Needless to say, this has not made WJC popular inside the beltway, even less so since they have been active in investigating and publicizing the Vincent Foster murder and its associated coverups and stonewalling. A cabinet member threatened one of WJC's major corporate donors with a cut-off of Federal contracts if they continued supporting WJC.

Recently, and this should be to no one's surprise, the IRS audited WJC's books. Bookkeeping-wise everything was in order, but the IRS agent told them they didn't qualify as a 501(c)(3) corporation because they weren't "educational!" When pressed to explain how come, when numerous other investigative and educational foundations with more "politically correct" agendas do qualify, the IRS man, in a moment of candor, said, "This is a political decision that will have to be made over my head."

So now the IRS joins the FBI and its "Filegate" harlotry, and the ATF of Waco fame, as a weapon to silence the political opponents of the Clinton Mafia in the White House.



Joseph Farah is contesting this ruling, which is damned expensive. Tax-deductible contributions should go to:

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Donors of \$25 or more will receive either a copy of a 220-page book *Vincent Foster — The Ruddy Investigation*, or a six-month, 12-issue subscription to WJC's newsletter *Dispatches*. — A. McC. ✕



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the
Saga
of
SOG's
Mad
Dog

Declassified Secret Of An SF Legend

In

the late 1960s no Army Special Forces trooper at Fort Bragg, N.C., even breathed the top-secret letters "SOG" — but everyone had heard of its legendary, Green Beret recon-team leader, Sergeant First Class Jerry Shriver.

Dubbed a "mad dog" by Radio Hanoi, it was Shriver who'd spoken the most famous rejoinder in the history of the Studies and Observation Group: He once had radioed that his superiors should not worry that a North Vietnamese force had encircled his team, explaining, "I've got 'em right where I want 'em: surrounded from the *inside*."

by Maj. John L. Plaster,
USAR (Ret.)

Fully decked out, "Mad Dog" Shriver was a walking arsenal with a sawed-off shotgun or suppressed submachine gun, pistols, knives and grenades. "He looked like Rambo," First Sergeant Billy Greenwood would recall.

Blond, tall and thin, Shriver's face bore chiseled features around piercing blue eyes. "There was no soul in the eyes, no emotion," SOG Captain Bill O'Rourke said. "They were just eyes."

By early 1969, Shriver was well into his third continuous year in SOG, leading top-secret intel-gathering teams deep into the enemy's clandestine Cambodian sanctuaries. Mad Dog had teased death scores of times. Unknown to him, however, forces beyond his control at the highest levels of government in Hanoi and Washington now were steering his fate.

The Big Picture

Every few weeks of early 1969, the docks at Cambodia's seaport of Sihanoukville bustled with East European ships off-loading to long lines of Hak Ly Trucking Company lorries. Ostensibly owned by a Chinese businessman, the company's true operator was North Vietnam's *Trinh Sat* intelligence service. The trucks' clandestine cargo of rockets, small-arms ammunition and mortar rounds rolled overnight to the heavily

jungled frontier of Kompong Cham Province, just 3 miles from the border with South Vietnam. This was a place the Americans had nicknamed the "Fishhook," where vast stockpiles sustained three full enemy divisions plus communist units across the border in South Vietnam: in all, some 200,000 enemy troops.

Cambodian Prince Sihanouk was well aware of these neutrality violations. Indeed, his fifth wife Monique, her mother, and half-brother were secretly peddling land rights and political protection to the North Vietnamese Army; other middlemen were selling rice to the NVA by the thousands of tons. Hoping to woo Sihanouk from the communists, the Johnson administration had watched passively while thousands of GIs were killed by communist forces operating from Cambodia; it not only did nothing about it, but even denied it was happening.

And now, in February and March 1969, hundreds of Americans were being killed by NVA forces that struck quickly then fled back to "neutral" Cambodia.

Combined with other data, SOG's Cambodia intel assessment appeared on a top-secret map that National Security Adviser Henry Kissinger studied aboard Air Force One at Brussels airport on 24 February 1969. Sitting with Kissinger was Colonel Alexander Haig, his military assistant; representing President Nixon was White House Chief of Staff H.R. "Bob" Haldeman. Nixon had asked Kissinger to determine how to deal with the buildup in Cambodia and counter Hanoi's "fight and talk" strategy.

While President Nixon addressed NATO's North Atlantic Council, those aboard Air Force One worked out details for a clandestine U.S. response: the secret bombing of Cambodia's most remote sanctuaries, which would go unacknowledged unless Prince Sihanouk protested. When Air Force One departed Brussels, Kissinger briefed Nixon, who approved the plan but postponed implementation.

During the next three weeks, Nixon twice warned Hanoi that "we will not tolerate attacks which result in heavier casualties to our men at a time that we are honestly trying to seek peace at the conference table in Paris." The day after Nixon's second warning, the NVA bombarded Saigon with 122mm rockets obviously smuggled through Cambodia.

Three days later Nixon turned loose the B-52s on the Fishhook. This first secret raid into Cambodia set off 73 secondary explosions.

Special Mission For SOG

Not one peep emanated from Phnom Penh or Hanoi. Here was a fitting irony: For four years the North Vietnamese had denied

their presence in Cambodia, and now, with U.S. bombs falling on them, they could say nothing. Nixon suspended further B-52 strikes in hopes Hanoi's negotiators might begin productive discussions in Paris. The talks droned on pointlessly.

Nixon approved a second, secret B-52 strike, this time against a target proposed by General Creighton Abrams with Ambassador Bunker's endorsement: the Central Office for South Vietnam (COSVN), the almost mythical, Viet Cong headquarters that purportedly ran the whole war. An NVA deserter had pinpointed the COSVN complex 14 miles southeast of Mimot, in the Fishhook, just a mile beyond the South Vietnamese border. The COSVN raid was laid on for 24 April.

Apprised of the upcoming air strike, Brig. Gen. Philip Davidson, the J-2 (chief of intelligence) for Military Assistance Command-Vietnam, thought that instead of just bombing COSVN, SOG raiders should hit the enemy headquarters as soon as the bombs stopped falling. He phoned Col. Steve Cavanaugh, chief of SOG, who agreed. Cavanaugh ordered the Ban Me Thuot-based Command and Control South (CCS) to prepare a Special Forces-led company of Montagnard mercenaries for the top-secret mission.

The historic COSVN raid would be led by Capt. Bill O'Rourke and SOG's living legend, Mad Dog Shriver, continuing an eight-month collaboration they'd begun in recon. Though O'Rourke would command the company-size raiding force, Shriver *equally* would influence the operation.

Mad Dog: Man And Myth

There was no one at CCS quite like Mad Dog.

Medal of Honor recipient Jim Fleming, who flew Air Force UH-1 Huey helicopters for SOG, considered Shriver to be "the quintessential warrior-loner; anti-social, possessed by what he was doing: the best team, always training, constantly training."

Shriver rarely spoke and walked around camp for days wearing the same clothes. In his sleep he cradled a loaded rifle; in the NCO club he'd buy a case of beer, open every can, then go alone to a corner and drink them all. Though he'd been awarded a Silver Star, five Bronze Stars and the Soldier's Medal, the 28-year-old Green Beret didn't care about decorations.

But he did care about the Montagnard hill tribesmen, and spent all of his own money on them, even collected food, clothes — whatever people would give — to distribute in "Yard" villages.

"He was almost revered by the Montagnards," O'Rourke said.

Shriver's closest companion was Klaus, a German shepherd he'd brought back from Taiwan. One night Klaus got sick on beer some recon soldiers fed him and crapped in the NCO club; they rubbed the dog's nose in it and threw him out. Shriver soon arrived, drank a beer, removed his blue velvet smoking jacket and derby, put a .38 revolver on a

Sgt. 1st Class Jerry "Mad Dog" Shriver, SOG's legendary recon man, prepares to board Medal of Honor recipient Jim Fleming's UH-1. Shriver carries suppressed .45-caliber M3 submachine gun, fragmentation and smoke grenades, Gerber combat dagger and (very likely) several .38-caliber revolvers.

photo by Jim Fleming/digital enhancement by B. Bigler



Col. Steve Cavanaugh, chief of SOG (1968-70), prepares to fly as back-seater in OV-10 Bronco. The twin-turboprop planes could carry two 7.62x51mm machine guns and up to 3,600 pounds of rockets, bombs or flares. Broncos flew in the Vietnam War in recon, forward air-control, and limited ground-attack missions.

table, then dropped his pants and defecated on the floor. "If you want to rub *my* nose in this," he dared, "come on over."

Everyone in the club wisely pretended not to hear him.

"[Shriver] had this way of looking at you with his eyes half-open," recon man Frank Burkhardt remembered. "If he looked at me like that, I'd just about freeze."

Shriver always had been different. In the early 1960s, when Rich Ryan served with him in the 7th Army's Long Range Patrol Company in Germany, Shriver's buddies called him "Digger" since they thought he looked like an undertaker.

No recon man was better in the woods than Shriver.

"He was like having a dog you could talk to," O'Rourke explained. "He could hear and sense things; he was more alive in the woods than any other human being I've ever met."

During a company operation on the Cambodian border, Shriver and an old Yard compatriot were sitting against a tree. "Suddenly he sat bolt upright," O'Rourke recalled, "they looked at each other, shook their heads and leaned back against the tree. I'm watching this and wondering, 'What the hell's going on?' And all of a sudden these birds flew by, then a nanosecond later, way off in the distance, 'Boom-boom!' — shotguns. They'd heard that, ascertained what it was and relaxed before I even knew the birds were flying."

Shriver once went up to SOG's Command and Control North for a mission into the DMZ. Captain Jim Storter encountered him just before insertion: "He had pistols stuck everywhere on him, I mean, he had five or six .38-caliber revolvers. ..."

Rather than stand down after an operation, Shriver would go out with other teams. "He lived for the game; that's all he lived

for," Dale Libby, a fellow CCS man, said.

In 1968, during a short leave stateside, fellow Green Beret Larry White hung out with Shriver — whose only real interest was buying a lever-action .444 Marlin rifle. Shriver shipped one of the powerful Marlins back to SOG so he could carry it into Cambodia "to bust bunkers." That rifle probably was the only lever gun used in the Vietnam War

Payback Is An SOB

In contrast to his image as a fearless warrior, Shriver confided to fellow SOG Green Beret Sammy Hernandez that he feared death and didn't think he'd live much longer. Shriver had beat bad odds too many times and could feel a terrible pay-back looming.

"He wanted to quit," Medal of Honor recipient Fred Zabitosky, another Special Forces legend, recalled. "He really wanted to quit, Jerry did. I said, 'Why don't you just tell them *I want off, I don't want to run any more?*' He said he would but he never did; just kept running."

The 5th Special Forces Group's executive officer, Lt. Col. Charlie Norton, had been watching SOG recon casualties skyrocket. He grew concerned about men like

Mad Dog who constantly flirted with death. Norton went to the 5th Group's commander and urged: "Don't approve the goddamn extensions these guys are asking for. You approve it again, your chances of killing that guy are very, very good." The group commander countered that SOG needed experienced men for its high-priority missions. "Bullshit," Norton snapped, "you're signing that guy's death warrant."

Eventually 5th Group turned down a few extension requests — very few — and none by the most experienced recon men.

"Mad Dog was wanting to get out of recon and didn't know how," said recon team leader Sonny Franks. However, a half-measure came when Shriver left recon to join O'Rourke's raider company.

Now the COSVN raid would make a fitting, final operation: Shriver could face his fear head-on, charge right into the mysterious COSVN and then call it quits.

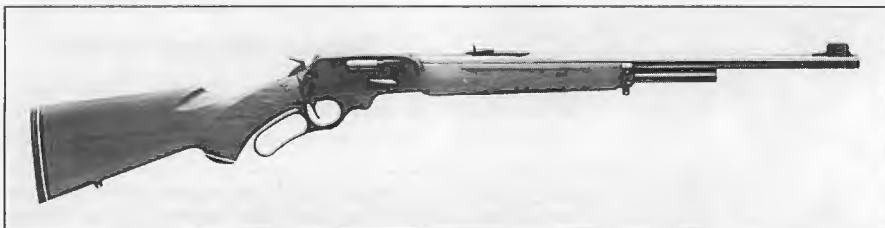
Into The Mouth Of COSVN

The morning of 24 April 1969, while high-flying B-52s winged their way from distant Guam, the SOG raider company lined up at the airfield at Quan Loi, South Vietnam, only 20 miles southeast of COSVN's secret lair.

But just five UH-1 Hueys were flyable that morning, enough to lift only two platoons. The big bombers could not be delayed; this meant First Lieutenant Bob Killebrew's 3rd Platoon would have to stand by at Quan Loi while the 1st Platoon under 1st Lt. Walter Marcantel and 2nd Platoon under 1st Lt. Greg Harrigan raided COSVN.

O'Rourke and Mad Dog didn't like it, but they could do nothing. Nor could they do anything about their minimal fire support: Although whole waves of B-52s were about to dump thousands of bombs into COSVN, Washington's highly classified Cambodian Rules of Engagement forbade tactical air strikes. It was better to lose an American-led SOG team, the State Department's rules suggested, than leave evidence that F-4 Phantoms had bombed this "neutral" territory. (It was curious logic: great concern about telltale napalm streaks or cluster-bomb fins, but none about square miles of B-52 bomb craters. Cavanaugh found this contradiction "ridiculous" but could not change the rules.)

The bombers' contrails were not yet visible when the engines in the Hueys began cranking. O'Rourke would ride the first bird



During stateside leave in 1968, Mad Dog Shriver purchased a .444-caliber Marlin rifle to "bust bunkers" in SOG missions against NVA in Cambodia. The four-shot repeater (nearly identical to this later-model Marlin 444SS) probably was the only lever-action rifle used by an American soldier in the Vietnam War.



Huge craters from B-52's bombs (right) disrupt mountainous supply route in Cambodia. Strike's toll includes one enemy truck destroyed and two others, heavily camouflaged, damaged.

and Shriver the last, so they'd be at each end of the formation on the landing zone. As the helicopters lifted off for the 10-minute flight, the B-52s were making final alignments for the bombing run. Then, more trouble: The lead UH-1 would have to turn back because of mechanical problems; a frustrated O'Rourke could only wish the others Godspeed. By radio, command of the raid was passed to Capt. Paul Cahill, an operations officer in the second chopper.

Momentarily, the raiders could see dirt geysers reaching skyward amid collapsing trees. Then, as the dust settled, a violin-shaped clearing took form ahead. The Hueys descended in trail, hovered for men to leap off, then climbed away.

Gunfire exploded from all directions. It skimmed the LZ and mowed down any SOG trooper who didn't dive into a bomb crater or roll behind a fallen tree trunk. From the rear of the LZ, Mad Dog radioed that a machine-gun bunker to his left-front had his men pinned; he asked if anyone could fire at it.

Holed up in a bomb crater beneath murderous fire, Capt. Cahill, 1st Lt. Marcantel and an SF medic, Sergeant Ernest Jamison, radioed that they were pinned, too. Jamison dashed out to retrieve a wounded man; heavy fire killed him on the spot.

No one else could engage the machine gun that trapped Shriver's men. It was up to Mad Dog. Skittish Yards looked to Shriver, whose half-grin restored a sense of confidence. Then they were on their feet. Shriver was his old self, running to the sound of guns, a "true believer" Yard on each side, all of them dashing through the flying bullets into the tree line, into the very jaws of COSVN.

Mad Dog Shriver was never seen again.

The Fight Continues

At the other end of the LZ, Jamison's body lay a few yards from the crater where Cahill lay as bullets cracked and rocket-propelled grenades shook the ground.

Cahill lifted his head and an AK round hit him in the mouth, was deflected upward and destroyed an eye. Badly wounded, he collapsed.

In a nearby crater, young Lt. Harrigan directed helicopters whose rockets and mini-guns were the only things holding off the aggressive NVA troops. Already, Harrigan reported, more than half of his platoon was killed or wounded. For 45 minutes he kept the enemy at bay, then he, too, was hit. Harrigan died minutes later.

By now O'Rourke was returning to the mission in another helicopter, but his bird couldn't penetrate the NVA's veil of hot lead. Lieutenant Col. Earl Trabue, the CCS commander, arrived overhead but likewise could do little.

Hours dragged by. Several times the Huey pilots attempted to land and each time heavy fire drove them off. One door gunner was badly wounded.

Finally, the Australian crew of a passing Canberra twin-engine bomber from No. 2 Squadron at Phan Rang heard the battle on an emergency radio frequency, ignored the fact it was in Cambodia and flew in to drop

bombs. This "broke the strangle hold those guys were in," O'Rourke reported, "and it allowed us to go in." Only Marcantel was still directing air support by radio; finally he had to bring ordnance so close it wounded him and his surviving nine Montagnards.

A medic ran to Harrigan's hole and attempted to lift his body out but couldn't. "They were pretty well drained physically and emotionally," O'Rourke recalled. Finally, three Hueys raced in and picked up 15 wounded men. Lieutenant Dan Hall carried out a radio operator, then managed to drag Harrigan's body to an aircraft.

Thus ended the COSVN raid.



John L. Plaster

A Time For Reflection

Afterward, Chief of SOG Cavanaugh talked to the survivors. He was disturbed by what he learned.

"The fire was so heavy and so intense," he said, "that even the guys trying to [evade] and move out of the area were being cut down." It seemed almost an *ambush*. "That really shook them up at MACV, to realize anybody survived that [B-52] strike."

The heavy losses especially affected Brig. Gen. Davidson, MACV's J-2, who blamed himself. "General," Cavanaugh would assure him, "if I'd have felt we were going to lose people like that, I wouldn't have put them in there."

It's that ambush-like reception, despite a B-52 strike, that opened the disturbing pos-

Continued on page 64



John Murphy

Twenty-five years after top-secret raid on COSVN in Cambodia, Special Forces Association (Chapter 20) honor guard performs ceremony at Minneapolis grave of SOG raider Greg Harrigan as family members watch.

Return of the **BAR**

Old Soldiers Never Die...

by Peter G. Kokalis



U.S. Army Center of Military History/Robert Bruce Photo

"Machinegun Position" by distinguished artist Andy Pratt was used for several different posters during WWII.

It was the stuff of legends. Designed by the most famous firearms inventor that ever lived, John Moses Browning, the Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR) fought its way through World War II, the Korean War and even saw action during the early years of the Vietnam War. Serving as the squad's base of fire in the U.S. Army and as the centerpieces of the USMC's fire team concept, Marine Corps veterans of the Pacific campaign and Korea have literally canonized this weapon.

On 6 April 1917 when war was declared between the United States and the Imperial German Government, the U.S. Armed Forces had a total of 1,100 assorted Benet-Mercie, Maxim and Colt "Potato Digger" Model 1895 machine guns. Germany, on the other hand, had entered the war three years previously with 12,500 Maxims and another 50,000 under construction. The first machine gun issued in quantity to the American Expeditionary Force was the incredibly dreadful French Chauchat. One of the very first true automatic rifles, it was intended to provide "marching fire" to suppress enemy fire from the trenches while the infantry moved forward on the assault across open ground.

John Browning first demonstrated his automatic rifle, which was based upon the above tactical concept, on 27 February 1917. The BAR was originally designed to be carried by an advancing infantryman with the sling over his shoulder and the butt against the hip. In fact, early BAR web gear featured a steel box on the right side on the belt into which the soldier would place the butt as he walked forward, firing the weapon with each step of the right foot. The hit probability must have been unacceptably low by today's standards, but the idea was to keep the enemy hunkered down in their trenches as the assaulting units advanced.

Initially, Colt held the exclusive rights to manufacture Browning's designs in the United States, but as the need for machine

guns became urgent after the United States entered the war in April 1917, contracts were also awarded to the Winchester Repeating Arms Company and the Marlin-Rockwell Corporation. The inventor's son, 2nd Lieutenant Val A. Browning, was the first to use the BAR in combat, firing on German positions on 13 September 1918. However, World War I ended before the BAR was available in quantity and its actual combat use was quite limited in that con-

flict. By the end of the war, 85,000 BARs were delivered before all the contracts were canceled. During the so-called gangster era of the 1930s, the M1918 BAR gained prominence almost approaching that of the Thompson submachine gun with both desperadoes — such as John Dillinger, Pretty Boy Floyd, Bonnie and Clyde — and J. Edgar Hoover's fledgling FBI.

The original Model 1918 (so called to avoid confusion with the M1917 Browning water-cooled machine gun although the BAR also was adopted the previous year) fired from the open-bolt position, either full

auto or semiautomatic. The cyclic rate was about 480 rpm. The bottom-fed, 20-round magazine could be emptied in 2.5 seconds. Gas-operated with an adjustable regulator and a conventional piston below the barrel, it was chambered for the standard .30-06 U.S. service round of that period. Although reliable and widely acclaimed, the M1918 was difficult to control in full-auto fire, as it had no bipod and at 16 pounds, empty, was too heavy to fire effectively from a shoulder mount. A cavalry version was adopted as the model 1922, but only a few hundred were made. In 1937, a small number were con-

1918A3 SLR SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber: .30-06.

Operation: Locked-breech, gas-operated with three-position regulator, semiautomatic, closed-bolt, hammer-fired. Two-position selector lever.

Feed mechanism: 20-round, staggered-column, detachable box-type magazine.

Weight, empty: 19.4 pounds.

Length, overall: 47.8 inches with flash hider.

Barrel: Four grooves with a right-hand twist of one turn in 10 inches.

Barrel length: 24 inches.

Sights: Leaf-type rear sight with open U-notch battle sight and peep aperture adjustable for windage and elevation from 100 to 1,500 yards; reverse ramp-type front sight blade with protective hood.

Finish: Phosphate ("Parkerized").

Price: \$2,650 including bipod, flash hider, carrying handle, web sling and two 20-round magazines.

Manufacturer: Ohio Ordnance Works Inc., Dept SOF, 310 Park Drive, P.O. Box 687, Chardon, OH; phone: 216-285-3481; fax: 216-286-8571.

T&E summary: Faithful semiautomatic reproduction of the Browning Automatic Rifle that served as the squad's base of fire during World War II, the Korean War and the early years of the Vietnam War. Robust and reliable. Extremely accurate.



M1918 BAR (top) saw little action in World War I, but was a favorite of both desperadoes such as John Dillinger, Pretty Boy Floyd, Bonnie and Clyde and J. Edgar Hoover's fledgling FBI. The 1918A3 SLR (bottom) is a faithful semiautomatic reproduction of the M1918A2 BAR.

Peter G. Korkalis

guns became urgent after the United States entered the war in April 1917, contracts were also awarded to the Winchester Repeating Arms Company and the Marlin-Rockwell Corporation. The inventor's son, 2nd Lieutenant Val A. Browning, was the first to use the BAR in combat, firing on German positions on 13 September 1918. However, World War I ended before the BAR was available in quantity and its actual combat use was quite limited in that con-



U.S. Army National Archives/Robert Bruce Photo

Korea, 1951: From a protected position behind a tank, this infantryman fires his Browning Automatic Rifle at Chinese Communist positions. Note the absence of a bipod, removed in order to lighten this heavy but effective one-man machine gun.

converted to the M1918A1 configuration, which included a buttplate with a hinged shoulder strap and a bipod attached to the gas cylinder. This increased the weight to 18.5 pounds. With the bipod at this location, the gun could easily be pivoted to engage fast moving targets on the flanks. Colt manufactured a number of commercial versions, including the famous Colt Monitor with a short barrel, Cutts muzzle compensator and pistol grip which was marketed in the 1930s as a law-enforcement and bank-guard weapon. *Fabrique Nationale*, licensed to manufacture John Browning's designs in Europe, sold several versions of the BAR in various calibers throughout the world including a caliber 7.92x57mm variant to Poland known as the Model Wz28. After World War II, FN introduced the Model D version with a quick-change barrel and simplified disassembly. In 1937, Sweden developed a model of the BAR with a quick-change barrel and pistol grip.

The final U.S. military version of the BAR was adopted and issued in 1940 as the M1918A2. Provision to attach a monopod was added to the buttstock, but the monopods, of dubious value anyway, were

never issued. The checkered wooden forearm was reduced in height to enhance cooling of the barrel and then eventually replaced by a shorter, unchecked forend. The M1917 Enfield pattern rear sight was replaced by a unit similar to that of the M1919A4 .30 caliber BMG (Browning machine Gun). Guide ribs were added to the front of the machined trigger housing to assist insertion of magazines. The M1918A1 buttplate with hinged shoulder strap was retained. In 1942 a plastic buttstock replaced the walnut buttstock. Toward the end of World War II, a carrying handle was added to the barrel, but it did not see widespread use until the Korean War (at which time an odd-looking pronged flash hider was also adopted). All of this brought the weight up to 19.4 pounds, empty. There was no longer any provision for semiautomatic fire (it was felt that the adoption of the M1 Garand made this unnecessary), only two rates of full auto: 300-450 rpm and 500-650 rpm, respectively. The Marines preferred the original semiautomatic feature and frequently retained that capability. Initially, M1918A2 BARs were converted from existing M1918s and M1918A1s.

Most of the M1918 configuration BARs in collectors' hands today were sent to England under the Lend-Lease program and then imported back to the United States by Interarms prior to 1968.

By the end of World War II, a total of 208,380 M1918A2 BARs were manufactured by IBM and (mostly) New England Small Arms. During the Korean War approximately 61,000 M1918A2 BARs were manufactured by Royal McBee Typewriter Company. Prior to 19 May 1986 a small number of M1918A2 type BARs were assembled from surplus parts and newly made receivers by Tony Maples of RAMO. An additional 250 BAR receivers were manufactured by Group Industries. The total number of BARs manufactured in the United States throughout its production life span was somewhat less than 355,000.

Battle-Proven BAR

Even in its final M1918A2 configuration, the highly regarded BAR was less than perfect. The location of its bottom-fed magazine limited capacity and 20 rounds is just not enough for a squad automatic. None of the models fielded by the U.S. Armed

Forces had quick-change barrels. Melvin M. Johnson, Jr., designer of the Johnson M1941 semiautomatic rifle and Models 1941 and 1944 Light Machine Guns, stated that a BAR barrel could withstand 75 to 100 rounds per minute for up to 300-400 rounds without serious damage to the barrel. In one test the barrel was ruined after 1,000 rounds of firing at this rate.

Semiautomatic accuracy was degraded by the open-bolt firing mechanism which caused the reciprocating group to slam against the rear of the barrel to jar the weapon at the moment of primer ignition. In juxtaposition, full-auto fire off the bipod was almost too accurate. At the standard 1,000-inch machine-gun target, the M1918A2 BAR could place one full 20-round burst into a 2x3-inch rectangle. This is a direct consequence of the bipod's location at the muzzle. Group dispersion of this size is superior to that of the M1917A1

water-cooled Browning machine gun mounted on its tripod. As a result, at combat ranges of 200 to 600 yards the M1918A2 BAR almost comes close to lacking a useful distribution of fire. In addition, with the bipod attached to the muzzle, it becomes more difficult for the operator to engage flanking targets. At almost 20 pounds the M1918A2 BAR is too heavy for anything other than snap shooting from a standing shoulder mount.

Regardless of its idiosyncrasies, the BAR is a genuine, battle-proven piece of American military history. It ranks in desirability with collectors and shooters right up there with the Thompson submachine gun, .30 M1 Garand, Colt M1911 Government Model .45 pistol and the Colt Single-Action Army Revolver. Unfortunately, in private hands, BARs are quite rare. There are probably no more than 10 M1918A2 BARs, manufactured by either IBM, New England

Small Arms or Royal McBee Typewriter Company, registered to individuals in the United States. When offered for sale they will bring up to \$7,500. About 1,500 M1918 BARs, manufactured by either Colt, Winchester or Marlin-Rockwell, were imported by Interarms from Great Britain. In excellent condition they will sell for \$5,000. All of these are Title II firearms and require a \$200 tax stamp when acquired by individuals living in a state that permits their possession, as well as the fingerprint cards, photos and three- to six-month delays involved in BATF approval of ATF Form 4 transfer applications. A substantial number of collectors and shooters don't want the hassle and can't afford the price tag of a full-auto BAR.

Best Alternative BAR-none

There is now an intriguing alternative: Ohio Ordnance Works Inc. (Dept. SOF, 310 Park Drive, P.O. Box 687, Chardon, OH; phone: 216-285-3481; fax: 216-286-8571) has recently introduced the 1918A3 Self-Loading Rifle (SLR) which is an exact external duplicate of the M1918A2 BAR. Complete with bipod, flash hider, carrying handle, web sling and two 20-round magazines, the price is \$2,650 plus shipping. This caliber .30-06, closed-bolt, hammer-fired semiautomatic-only rifle has been approved by the BATF as it has been designed and manufactured to permit only semiautomatic fire. The receiver, not modified from an existing BAR receiver, is made from an 86/20 steel investment casting, fully machined on a state-of-the-art, computer-controlled, machining center. Both M14 and M1 Garands were also made from 86/20 ordnance steel. In addition, since this rifle does not have either a sinister folding or telescoping buttstock, pistol grip that protrudes conspicuously beneath the action, a bayonet lug or grenade launcher, the gun gestapo has ruled that it is not a banned and



U.S. Army Signal Corps/National Archives/Robert Bruce Photo

France 1918: U.S. Army 1st Lieutenant Val Browning demonstrates his father's new M1918 "machine rifle" to the American troops. (above) The weapon is actually firing in this rare photo.



U.S. Army Signal Corps/National Archives/Robert Bruce Photo



U.S. Army Signal Corps/national Archives/Robert Bruce Photo

Japan, May 1956: U.S. Army 1st Cavalry Division maneuvers – live firing exercise with BAR M1918A2 (note extended bipod).

extraordinarily dangerous “semiautomatic assault weapon.”

The 1918A3 SLR receiver precludes the installation of the following BAR components: slide, firing pin, trigger group, hammer and bolt link. A second retaining pin hole was drilled through the receiver to support the rear end of the redesigned trigger housing. This retaining pin is attached to an additional takedown lever on the left side of the receiver. The slide was modified by

machining its lower surface to completely remove the original sear surface. The rail channels in the receiver have been machined to accept only the modified slide. The firing pin has been altered and is designed to work only in conjunction with a secondary striker mounted in a redesigned bolt link. The new firing pin is designed for firing from the closed-bolt position when the secondary striker is impinged against by a spring-loaded hammer. The trigger mechanism was redesigned by the inclusion of a spring-loaded hammer and a .30 M1 Carbine-type sliding sear that also serves as a disconnecter. The standard BAR bolt lock, gas cylinder and handguard have been utilized.

USMC/National Archives/Robert Bruce Photo

Just about everything else remains pretty much the same. When the bolt group travels forward and is about 2 inches from battery, a circular cam surface on the bottom of the bolt lock starts to ride over

the bolt support’s rear shoulders, camming the rear end of the bolt lock upward. As the link pin rises above the line between the hammer and bolt pins, the bolt lock is aligned with its locking recesses in the receiver and pivots around the bolt-lock pin. The hammer pin revolves on its link and forces the bolt lock upward. A rounded surface on the lock slips over the locking shoulder in the “hump” of the receiver and provides additional momentum to force the bolt all the way up into battery. On the recoil stroke, the piston and slide, driven rearward by expanding propellant gases forced into the gas cylinder through the barrel’s gas port, draw the bolt group down out of its locking recess and then rearward. This method of operation, turned upside down (locking onto shoulders below the action), was used 40 years later on the famous FN MAG 58 GPMG.

The overall length, with flash hider, is 47.8 inches. The 24-inch barrel, which by itself weighs 3.65 pounds, has four grooves with a right-hand twist of one turn in 10 inches. The non-reciprocating cocking handle is on the left side of the receiver with the ejection port on the right. The selector lever, located on the left side of the trigger housing, has two positions: *S* to the rear indicating *safe*, and *F* in the forward posi-



World War II, Pacific: Marine raiders in the central Solomons using inflatable rafts for waterborne assault operations. Note BAR M1918A2 on bow.

tion for fire. The top of the receiver is marked "SELF LOADING RIFLE MOD. 1918A3, U.S. CAL. 30 COLLECTORS CORNER, CHARDON, OHIO, PAT. PEND." Followed by the serial number. It carries the same phosphate ("Parkerized") finish as the M1918A2.

The gas cylinder assembly is composed of a body, body lock key and regulator assembly. There are three circles of different sizes on the face of the regulator assembly, which correspond to similar size gas ports in the body of the regulator. These gas ports control the amount of gas required to operate the weapon as fouling increases or other parameters such as ammunition, lubrication or atmospheric conditions alter the operating cycle. The BAR is normally operated with the regulator set to the smallest port and then varied only if the weapon exhibits signs of insufficient gas. To adjust the gas setting to the smallest port, turn the knurled regulator knob to the extreme clockwise position. All three regulator positions have audible click stops provided by a spring-loaded plunger indenting on one of three notches

A Full Supply Room

BAR magazines hold 20 rounds, and are of the staggered-column, detachable box type. They are still available in quantity at very reasonable prices. Ohio Ordnance Works Inc. sells new USGI (United States Government Issue) BAR magazines for only \$8.50 each. An original, but used, chest containing 12 new BAR magazines will cost you \$150. BAR magazines represent 80-year-old technology. They should never be kept loaded for any length of time. Load them only prior to use or their accordion-shaped, flat follower springs will lose their compression strength.

Other USGI BAR parts and accessories available from Ohio Ordnance Works Inc. include an original World War II-era cradle for dash board and pedestal mounts at \$250; winter trigger assembly for \$35; complete gas regulator assembly for \$25; blank firing adapter for \$8.50; gas cylinder reaming tool for \$7.50; and small parts pouch for only \$3.50.

The M1918A2 BAR bipod uses wing nuts to both retain the bipod in its open and

mean point of impact (mpi) 4 inches to the right or left at 100 yards (turn the knob backwards to move the aperture to the left). There are two rear sights. An open U-notch is used when the leaf is down and corresponds to a battle sight setting of 300 yards. The peep aperture is used when the leaf is in the upright position. It can be adjusted for elevation from 100 to 1,500 yards by means of the knurled knob on top of the leaf (turn the knob to the right to move the aperture up). One click of elevation adjustment will also move the mpi 4 inches at 100 yards. The front sight blade, a reverse ramp type, is dovetailed to its base on the barrel and can be drifted right or left to establish initial windage zero. It is protected by a robust hood. This is a classic example of the type of sophistication almost always found on the sights of U.S. military small arms. In juxtaposition, contemporaneous European small arms often featured sights that were crude in comparison and frequently had no provision for windage adjustment.

Detailed disassembly of the BAR series is somewhat complicated and is best accomplished through the use of a Department of the Army Field Manual. In my opinion, the best manual ever written about the BAR was *FM 23-15, BROWNING AUTOMATIC RIFLE CAL. 30, M1918A2*. The last edition of this field manual was published in May 1961 and it can still be found at gun shows or from the numerous book dealers who specialize in military manuals.

The 1918A3 SLR specimen sent to *Soldier Of Fortune* for test and evaluation has had a total of more than 10,000 rounds fired through it. Reliability is up to M1918A2 BAR standards. I would plan on stocking the following spare parts for any BAR: recoil spring and guide rod, extractor and extractor spring, firing pin, hammer, bolt link and complete gas cylinder assembly.

Weighing close to 20 pounds and firing from the closed-bolt position, the 1918A3 SLR's accuracy potential, when shot from the prone position off the bipod or rested on sandbags, is outstanding. This rifle will shoot close to 1-inch groups at 100 yards with USGI Armor Piercing (AP) ammunition and no worse than 2 inches with standard ball – all this with the issue iron sights. With its substantial mass and highly efficient buffer system, the 1918A3 SLR generates about as much perceived recoil as a pop gun.

Ohio Ordnance Works Inc. has just developed a National Match version of the 1918A3 SLR. Furnished with a Krieger heavy barrel, but without bipod, flash hider or threaded muzzle, this rifle produced 7/8-inch 10-shot groups at 100 yards with match-grade ammunition at the most recent Camp Perry high power competition.

The 1918A3 Self-Loading Rifle provides both military buffs and shooters the opportunity to own a piece of American firearms history without the red tape associated with acquiring a machine gun and at less than half the price of a selective-fire BAR. It also shoots like a match rifle. ☞



U.S. Army Signal Corps/National Archives/Robert Bruce Photo

July 1950, Taejon, Korea: U.S. Army infantry soldier fires a Browning Automatic Rifle (M1918A2) while heavy street fighting continues during the evacuation of Taejon by U.S. troops.

on the body lock key. This also prevents the regulator from rotating during firing.

A complex buffer and rate-reducing group is located in the M1918A2 BAR's buttstock. It serves two purposes: Most important in the case of the 1918A3 SLR, the buffer mechanism absorbs a great deal of the recoil of the reciprocating parts as they travel rearward. However, the rate reducing mechanism obviously has no effect on the 1918A3 SLR's performance, as it was intended only to permit the M1918A2 BAR to be fired at the slow cyclic rate of 350 to 550 rpm.

closed (against the barrel) positions and to adjust the command height (the distance from the ground to the bore's center line), which can be altered from 9 to 14.5 inches. The gun will rotate 360 degrees in the bipod body, which surrounds the muzzle end of the barrel.

The rear sight is a modified M1917A1 BMG leaf-type. The windage scale, located at the rear of the leaf, is attached to the base. The rear sight can be moved to the right or left by rotating the knurled windage knob located on the right side of the base. One click of windage moves the

If World War III ever kicks off, the dust-choked capital of Iraqi Kurdistan, Erbil, seems as good of a place as any for the first shots to be fired.

All of the necessary players for such a conflict are in place and primed. There are two factions of an ethnic minority vying for

to NATO in Sarajevo during the height of the Balkan war and a staffer at the allied military office in Zakho, Iraq: the Military Coordination Center that oversaw Operation Deny Flight, the post-Gulf War mission to keep Iraq's air force from flying north of the 36th parallel and south of the 32nd. He had little to be optimistic about.

Democratic Party (KDP) and a fair-weather friend of America, asked Saddam Hussein to help him expel rival Kurd leader Jalal Talabani and his Iranian-supported Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK). The KDP and PUK have been at each other's throats since the "safe haven" was established after the Gulf War, with

كوردستان

control of mountainous territory guaranteed them by Western air power; two regional, military powers (Iraq and Iran) run by despotic, radical regimes ready to cut each other's throats; thousands of religious extremists acting as mercenaries in the name of God; and Western nations poised to attack them all if anyone steps too far out of line or threatens the flow of oil from the Persian Gulf.

"This is Bosnia all over again," said a U.S. Army officer based in northern Iraq.

He was securing entry visas to Turkey for a caravan of four-wheel-drive vehicles packed with Army and CIA personnel avoiding possible reprisal for September's U.S. cruise-missile attacks on military sites around Baghdad.

"But then again, it'll probably be worse," the captain continued. "You see, the big difference is these Muslims here are for real, and this time there's oil. When the shit begins to fly up here, it'll make the Gulf War look like a tag-football game at a father-son picnic."

The captain was a former liaison officer

The soldiers and spooks stood sweating in the 110-degree heat at the sprawling border station. I asked where the group was headed.

"Back to Diyarbakir [Turkey] airbase," the captain replied. "And no — I don't think we'll be coming back anytime soon. The Kurdish guards at the Military Coordination Center wanted to come with us, but they couldn't. Things are heating up. This is it. Hey, keep your head down. See you in the next war."

An Enemy Of My Enemy...

The hasty retreat of the 20 or so Americans that September morning signaled an end to nearly five years of U.S. efforts to destabilize Saddam Hussein and build ties with Kurdish leaders eager to help Washington. In exchange for the Kurds' assistance, America secretly would fill their arsenals with weapons and their pockets with millions of dollars of CIA money.

But now the Americans were leaving, run out of town after Massoud Barzani, a tribal chief and leader of the Kurdistan

tensions recently rising over the splitting of cash generated from customs' revenues.

Saddam, anxious to re-establish any sort of control over the northern third of Iraq lost to him after the Gulf War, quickly came to the aid of Barzani and his rag-tag forces. He sent 30,000 Republican Guard troops — whose morale was dangerously low and needed bucking up, anyway — with tanks, BMPs, and artillery; also, a cadre of secret police who infested Erbil and neighboring Ainkawa on the morning of 31 August. These goons quickly rounded up hundreds of PUK leaders and supporters and reportedly executed them in the desert southeast of town.

The Clinton administration then was faced with a dilemma: How to deal with an emboldened Saddam Hussein while facing the prospect of defending a Kurdish faction allied with terrorist-state Iran, in the absence of resolve by Gulf War allies? The White House came up with a plan to make the president look good



Squad of KDP militiamen poses with assortment of weapons, some likely handed down by Iraqi army: East German MPIKMS-72 assault rifles (copy of Soviet AKM, with side-folding stock), PKM machine gun, rocket-propelled grenade, and (center) Dragunov SVD sniper rifle.

without committing direct military aid to the PUK or risking American pilots in punitive air strikes only weeks before the election: It ordered the Pentagon to launch two strikes of cruise missiles against 15 air-defense sites south of Baghdad.

Unfortunately, the cruise-missile "pin-prick," as it was called by some observers,

also highlighted weaknesses in the Clinton administration's policy of "dual containment" of both Iraq and Iran. Projecting enough military might to keep Saddam in his cage costs America billions each year. Further, radical elements in some Gulf states that host U.S. forces are growing openly hostile and their actions dangerous;

witness July's Saudi Arabia bombing that killed 19 American troops.

Saddam, meanwhile, hasn't lost his appetite for blood. And Iran — Iraq's tenacious enemy in the first Gulf War — has overtly begun sticking its fundamentalist fingers into Kurdish tribal affairs. The agitation it sows ripples first to Baghdad and

سید رفیع رازیت

Saddam's Kurd-World War

Clinton Bows To The Occasion

Text & Photos by Mark H. Milstein

PKDP gunner wearing hand-me-down Iraqi cammies and beret mans 14.5mm heavy machine gun in Erbil, possibly anticipating strike by U.S. aircraft from Turkey.





A street in Erbil (above) is patrolled by riflemen (one carrying extra RPG-7 rounds) of the victorious Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) following the defeat of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) by Iraq's Republican Guard. (right) KDP political officer reads into loud-speaker an edict from Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein about "amnesty" for Kurds belonging to PUK.



Policeman in Erbil guards governmental building, spared major damage by Republican Guard and KDP troops.



KDP militiaman carrying PKM general-purpose machine gun and belts of 7.62mmx54R ammunition glares at SOF correspondent in Erbil.

The history of the mountain tribes of Kurdistan is full of adversaries, from the Roman through Ottoman empires to the combined-arms wrath nowadays of Iraq, Iran, and Turkey against Kurd separatists.

"From the dawn of history the Kurdish tribes have scarcely submitted to any empire

Texas, scattered irregularly across portions of Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Syria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. *Kurdish Studies*, a semi-annual report by the Kurdish Heritage Foundation of America, in Brooklyn, N.Y., estimated the population at 26.3 million (with 4.4 million in Iraq), nearly 60% of

Revenge of the Kurds

or conqueror for long," the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* noted. "... When the Mongol Great Khan Mangu sent his brother Hulagu (1252) to conquer Western Asia, he was to suppress those Kurdish 'robbers' ... who hampered the free movements of the Mongol armies." The Mongols, ferocious horsemen, ruthlessly destroyed Kurd communities, but would pay a price: Kurds massacred 20,000 Mongols in 1257 at the castle of Arbil (Erbil).

Like other highlanders — Afghans, Gurkhas, or Appalachian hillbillies — the Kurds are clannish and tough.

They claim a homeland about the size of

whom "are today at least nominally Sunni Muslims." Kurds altogether comprise the fourth-largest ethnic group in the Middle East. But it is *not* a unified population.

There is no "national" government of Kurdistan; primary allegiance is to one's tribe. The tribes form confederacies, but also feud over land and resources. The rivalry of two northern-Iraq factions, the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), recently played into the hands of Saddam Hussein. It was a card game begun 20 years ago.

"Since [the] 1970s, the Iraqi Kurds have enjoyed an official autonomous status in a

then across the Atlantic to Washington.

A Tank Outside The Office

It was against this backdrop that I found myself on the day after the first of the cruise-missile strikes, standing alongside a road southwest of Erbil. The hot, afternoon sun beat down as I looked across grass-covered hills of sand at the outer defenses of what remained of Iraqi Republican Guard armored units that, days before, toppled the PUK regime. There wasn't much to see now.

Besides the obvious signs of heavy tracked-vehicle traffic and a few well-made but unmanned berms near the road, the only signs of the Iraqi army were a few barely discernible tank turrets and what appeared to be a radio mast shimmering on the horizon. As Voice of America radio had said earlier that day, "in the face of U.S. resolve and salvos of cruise missiles, the Iraqi army seems to have gone into full retreat. ..."

It was time to return to the scene of the crime.

"There was quite a lot of shelling during the week leading up to the invasion," Paul Pouldahl, a U.N. official based in the Erbil suburb of Ainkawa, told me. "We could see their flares every night. We also heard some heavy fighting coming from the center city just before the Iraqis came. When the Iraqi tanks finally showed up it was all rather quiet. We had one parked outside our office. Now things are back to normal."

Every vestige of PUK influence in Erbil was destroyed.

The PUK's administrative offices were ransacked, and looked to have sustained some damage from automatic weapons fire and an RPG-7 or two. There was, however, no evidence of either fresh damage by tank or artillery shells. A few mili-



Members of the Iran-backed PUK bury fellow Kurds killed by Iraqi troops. Republican Guard's assault on Erbil, in support of the KDP, also destroyed the headquarters of the Iraqi National Congress: CIA-backed dissident group that harassed and spied on the Baghdad government.

tiamen stood outside the recently liberated PUK offices. They eyed me suspiciously when I walked over to take some photographs, but did nothing.

At Erbil's main intersection a statue of Jalal Talabani lay in pieces next to a KDP checkpoint; a hammer-and-sickle flag hung from a building acting as its watch tower. Down the street, two soldiers were busy salvaging a metal desk and chair set from a pile of rubble that used to be the city's Sheraton Hotel.

It was time for me to drive over to the self-styled Iraqi Kurd parliament, site of the heaviest fighting and central barracks for the KDP military command.

Dozens of heavily armed KDP militia-

men stood around the twisted steel gate of the Kurdish parliament, guarding the beige concrete hull against anyone stupid enough to brandish a weapon and claim ownership in the name of the PUK. Nearby, a school bus sat on cinder blocks, perhaps to serve as cover if any new fighting broke out. Every window in the seven-story building had been smashed or shot out. Many were stained with soot from fires started by PUK officials trying to burn documents before they fled.

What Iraqi Tanks?

"I never saw any [Iraqi] tanks come to

Continued on page 66

portion of that state's Kurdistan," *Studies* said. "By the end of 1991, they had become all but independent from Iraq. By 1995, however, the Kurdish government in [Erbil] was at the verge of political suicide due to the outbreak of factional fighting between various Kurdish warlords."

In August, Saddam Hussein sent the Republican Guard into the Kurds' "safe haven," established by the Coalition after the Gulf War, to help the KDP crush the Iran-backed PUK — and perhaps primarily to root out a CIA-funded, anti-Saddam movement: the Iraqi National Congress. President Clinton responded in early September by ordering the launch of 44 Navy and Air Force cruise missiles against air-defense sites near Baghdad — far removed from the Kurdish battleground. Within days, the Republican Guard largely withdrew from the disputed area around Erbil.

"Our mission has been achieved," Clinton told the news media on 4 Sept.

Some politico-military experts, however, contend Saddam lost little and emerged stronger and bolder from this confrontation.

An op-ed essay in the 27 Sept., *Wall Street*

Journal by a former defense official claimed "the U.S. has suffered a serious setback from which it will be difficult to recover.

"Two things have gone seriously wrong," wrote Paul Wolfowitz, now the dean of advanced international studies at Johns Hopkins University. "First, Saddam has achieved major gains — in reasserting control over Iraqi territory, in terrorizing his enemies, in demonstrating the increasing weakness of the coalition against him and in getting the U.S. to reduce its strategic goals."

American credibility is damaged. "In order to claim success, President Clinton and his aides pretend that no promises were made to the people of northern Iraq or those we enlisted in the effort to oppose Saddam," Wolfowitz said. "This betrayal is one reason the coalition against Saddam is in tatters."

Wolfowitz was an undersecretary of defense during the presidency of George Bush, Saddam Hussein's first American wartime foe. According to the *Washington Post* (23 Sept., weekly edition) U.S. intelligence officials after the Gulf War pondered three scenarios for Saddam's demise: U.S. support for a "rolling coup" by united

Kurdish militias moving south to Baghdad or for a coup by disgruntled Republican Guard or security units; or Saddam's lone-gunner assassination as economic sanctions savaged the nation.

Judging by the title of his essay, "Clinton's Bay of Pigs," Wolfowitz has a battle ax to grind with the current administration: for ignoring the Kurd factions' civil war in hardscrabble, northern Iraq; for supporting a recent U.N. resolution (suspended in September) allowing Iraq to sell some oil; and for tolerating Saddam's defiance of U.N. inspectors' search for ballistic missiles and nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.

"Saddam is driven by a thirst for revenge in his struggles with enemies both domestic and international," he warned.

During the *first* Gulf War, Iraq poisoned tens of thousands of Iranians. The Iraqi dictator more than once unleashed chemical weapons on troublesome Kurds, too; the worst attack occurred in 1988 on a town in which some 5,000 civilians perished. But the Kurds survived.

The tribes are not going away — and neither is Saddam Hussein. —M.K.



Propaganda For Peace



GIs watch kids play in Muslim town of Zvinice: Younger ones have never known anything but fratricidal war. Will they be the hope for the future or victims of the past? Army PsyOps troopers work, and hope, for the former option.

Shots were fired at outpost nine, and word spread through Camp McGovern as fast as ricochets careen up a rocky canyon. Things are tense in this northeastern corner of Bosnia, and the U.S. Army is there to try and keep things polite. Like so many times before, this event was nothing serious — but the growing frequency of such incidents is unnerving. Driving toward the 3/5 Cav's post through the overgrown destruction that used to be people's homes, the Tactical PsyOp Team (TPT) chief told me, "We came prepared for confrontation, expecting at the least to have to deter conflicts between the factions themselves, and perhaps between them and us."

The oft-predicted spring offensive never materialized, and the "peace" continues, but the tension has not gone. Every soldier involved in Operation Joint Endeavor is keenly aware of how quickly the people's reluctant acceptance of the Dayton Agreement's terms can become frustration with its results — a frustration that might translate into U.S. casualties. The tactical PsyOp teams attached to combat elements throughout the former conflict zone are tasked with preventing just such a scenario.

PsyOp, or Psychological Operations, is part of the United States Army Special Operations capability. Using language ability, cultural sensitivity and information technology, the PsyOp soldiers create a combat multiplier effect, giving U.S. forces an edge in many kinds of conflict situations. These units have been used heavily in recent operations in Panama, the Persian Gulf, Somalia and Haiti, and the PsyOp function will see increasing relevance as the United States persists in getting involved with non-traditional missions such as disaster relief, humanitarian assistance and host nation support.

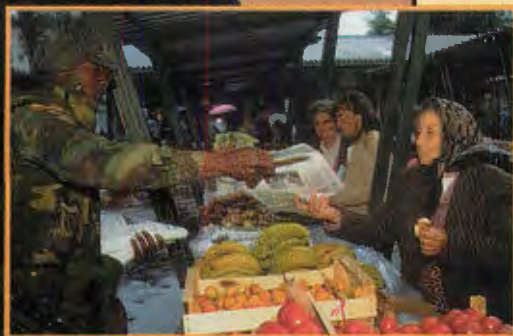
In Bosnia, PsyOp has a two-fold mission: The first priority is force protection. The Tactical PsyOps Team's (TPT) efforts are directed toward "winning hearts and minds" — a strategy that, unfortunately, has *always* delivered mixed results. Their other main task is to influence the population to take the steps necessary for the peace to hold after the United States has left, which is done by countering the propaganda put out by those parties interested in resuming the war. PsyOp soldiers spend most of their time here disseminating information in various forms, doing "town assessments" and other intel collection, working with locals and on Quick Reaction Force detail.

1st Brigade – Forming The Fate Of Brcko

Outpost nine is in the middle of "desolation boulevard," one of the most visible symbols of ethnic cleansing. The destruction is not collateral battle damage, rather every dwelling has been purposely destroyed so that the former occupants would not return. Of course, they've been trying to return anyway.

The problem is that the final status of this area near Brcko is still to be determined. "Serbs own it, Muslims used to, Muslims want it back, and Serbs don't want to give it," explained the PsyOp Team chief. When the Serbs took it from the Muslims who used to live there, they filled the city with Serb refugees from Sarajevo and Krajina. The way the Serbs see it, this small city on the Sava is the vital link in the corridor keeping the two parts of their Republika Srpska together. Apparently, Muslims have started rebuilding their houses in this part of the AO because they feel protected by the 3/5 Cav presence. Serbs from Sarajevo are also starting to build. "It's a race to build houses and the U.S. has stopped it," the TPT chief continued.

A cold rain fell lightly as the team dismounted to patrol an eerie main street, looking for any evidence that former residents or refugees had come in to rebuild the wrecked houses. The troops



First Brigade troopers distribute IFOR news and work the crowd at market in Serb town of Modrica. One healthy sign of a return to normalcy are such open-air markets, where former enemies now trade together.

Text & Photos by
JoMarie Fecci

Tactical PsyOps Missionaries Preach Gospel According To IFOR



First Brigade GIs patrol “desolation boulevard” near Brčko, looking for any signs of rebuilding — considered to be counterproductive to a lasting peace settlement.



stayed on the pavement. Though the area has been swept for mines, the utter desolation is not exactly a confidence builder. Even after six months the soldiers still look in dismay at the line of roofless houses with surreal shell damage. It’s creepy. After doing their quick recon, the GIs got back into the vehicles and quickly continued toward the Cav’s observation post.

At OP9, 3/5 Cav “observes” and “monitors” the movement of people into the abandoned houses. There’s not exactly an order to do anything to stop these people from building. In fact, just inside the perimeter of the OP a house has a fresh pile of bricks in front of it — a sure sign of



Curious young Serbs in Vlasenica eagerly receive copies of IFOR news from 2nd BDE soldier. Paperboys or PsyOps soldiers? GIs don’t care, as long as it works for peace.

“There has never been a bad peace, nor a good war.” (Ben Franklin, as quoted by Gen. Omar Bradley) Does this corpse cry out from the grave for peace? Or revenge? U.N. medical investigators excavate a mass grave to gather evidence of war crimes for the Hague trials. Will subsequent generations refight the grievances and atrocities of this Balkan war? Possibly — but with no peace now, there may not be a future generation. (below) Soldiers from 2nd BDE get cautious reception from locals in small Serb village near Vlasenica, but (inset) politeness and patience pay off as they get invited in for coffee, giving them a chance to pitch for peace.



repairs being made. The U.S. soldiers and their Bradleys are supposed to be a “deterrent,” as they get rained on, bake in the sun, count cars and check papers.

The PsyOp team has been working to get the “no building” message out to local Muslims. Of course the Muslims are complaining that the U.S. Army is protecting the Serb takeover of their town, and the Serbs definitely think the U.S. Army is there to help the Muslims.

Somewhere along the way the laudable principles of the Dayton Accord have been lost — the status quo of separation is the only thing keeping this situation calm.

People of all factions here seem to have the idea that they are safest when they are around the Americans — if pushed, they will probably admit it is only because the Americans have more and bigger firepower than anything the locals have themselves. In the middle of the Zone of Separation (ZOS) near the 1/1 Cav checkpoint Alpha 2, a market has

sprung up where the former enemies now trade peacefully. The TPT decides to stop there. While the Cav troopers have to play traffic cop and check people's IDs just up the street, the PsyOp men head into the market itself. The teams have found such markets a good place to distribute the IFOR newspapers and engage locals in hopefully fruitful discussions about the benefits of peace.

Who Are Those Tasked Men?

Moving from the fruit and vegetable sellers to the young men hawking black-market Marlboros, the soldiers pass out stacks of IFOR publications supporting peace. With casual contact between local civilians and U.S. soldiers supposed to be severely restricted, it's not surprising that crowds gather around the team members who easily strike up conversations as they make their way through the street. Their mission has the feel of a frantic political campaign on the eve of election day.

TPTs were designed for wartime operations ahead of the U.S. forward lines. The missions they train for use the teams to confuse enemy forces and to wear down their morale, creating an opponent less determined to hold out against conventional army forces. They performed this task successfully against the Iraqis during the Gulf War, but in Bosnia, as in Haiti and Somalia before that, they often find themselves being used as paperboys.

In Brcko, a drab town at the heart of the dispute over rebuilding, team members gave their newspapers to those Serbs willing to accept them. Some people refused to take the "propaganda sheets." Others threw them to the ground in disgust. When a Serb refugee invited the soldiers into her home, they took up the offer. As the woman prepared coffee in the traditional manner, the team members glanced around the living room. All four were quick to notice the Chetnik calendar, featuring Arkan and his men, that hung on the wall. The NCOIC asked the woman if she were from the Brcko area. She responded, growing increasingly agitated as she spoke, that her husband had been killed and her son wounded during the war and they were unable to get aid from the local authorities because they are refugees from Sarajevo. Her story became confused and she took down the family album, proudly passing around the photographs of her son in his Chetnik uniform.

Back on the street, the mission continued, as the TPT moved toward a group of men roasting pigs on an open spit. The team's goal on these missions is less about gathering specific hard intel than assessing the general mood of an area. Whether that means getting into a shouting match with a gaggle of men in the market, or drinking endless cups of coffee in someone's living room, the idea is to talk — to find out what these people really think. And to develop ways of changing those thoughts if they are counter-productive to peace.

"Peace" is still a fragile luxury here. The TPTs are out on a daily basis trying to shape

public opinion so that when violence does break out, it is not directed at the American troops — and in hopes that, over time, peace among neighbors will tend to become a habit.

Promoting Peace Among Graves And Criminals

So far, against all expectations, the casualty count has been kept down on all sides, which is in itself an accomplishment. The next step may well prove even harder, as U.S. forces try to lay the foundation for Bosnians of all ethnicities to reclaim their own government functions. Regardless of whether the "peace" really takes hold or not, if the U.S. mission lasts too long American troops are liable to be drawn into the Balkan quagmire — many soldiers involved in this operation feel their real fight is against time.

Tensions have increased dramatically in the 2nd Brigade area that includes Vlasenica and Srebrenica, since the honeymoon period just after the U.S. contingent deployed. During the winter, the PsyOp teams had quickly developed a fairly positive relationship with local residents of this area, which is home to the "Drina Wolves." Recently, however, the situation has deteriorated to the point where a "small riot" occurred. Then a few days afterward "persons unknown" blew up one of the U.N. international police vehicles parked in Vlasenica. The Serbs here are under the impression that the U.S. Army is out to apprehend their beloved Karadzic and anti-IFOR feelings are running strong.

On this particular Saturday morning, a TPT from 2nd Brigade HQ was working to turn this trend around. As they rolled to a stop near one of the Vlasenica markets, even the team members admitted to feeling

a little ill-at-ease. People here weren't friendly. Most of them weren't exactly hostile, but it was clear that at best they considered the U.S. soldiers nothing other than an occupation force. They accepted the IFOR propaganda sheets because the guys passing them out had guns.



Sometimes being a diplomat only takes being a good listener. Second Brigade troopers listen to grievances of Serb woman near Vlasenica.

A Soft Answer Turneth Away Rocks

Two of the team members were distributing the information sheets, while the other two were busy hanging up posters encouraging people to participate in the upcoming elections. A drunken young Serb, hoping to impress his girlfriend, started following one of the soldiers, making very loud and very nasty comments about the U.S. Army. The last thing the team wanted to do was appear confrontational, but across the way the other PsyOps soldier discreetly checked his weapon, just in case. The drunk shouted

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SOLDIERS, SHRINKS AND PSYOPS

PsyOps soldiers use information and persuasion to influence perceptions and encourage desired behavior. Although psychological operations have a long history as part of American military actions, the recent activities of the U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne) (USACAPOC [A]) began with Operation Just Cause in Panama, and its successor civil affairs operation known as Promote Liberty. As Promote Liberty wound down, Operations



Soldiers of 2nd Brigade 5/3 Cav meet with social services director in Kladanaj. Peace has been imposed by IFOR — but if it is to last the infrastructure must be rebuilt, human needs answered, and centuries-old attitudes changed. Is the UN/IFOR up to the job? Only time will tell. Peace is always worth the try.

Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Provide Comfort entailed the eventual deployment of 2,650 PsyOps/CA soldiers. During Provide Comfort these soldiers were instrumental in the accomplishment of the largest humanitarian assistance operation since the Berlin airlift, providing relief to half a million Kurdish refugees in eastern Turkey and northern Iraq.

In the fall of 1991, members of the command were sent to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to assist in Haitian refugee operations, and in December of 1992, they deployed to Somalia in support of Operation Restore hope.

The USACAPOC (A) has about 9,000 soldiers including the 4th Psychological Operations Group (Airborne), with five battalions, and the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne), with five companies. Among the PsyOps elements recently in Bosnia, the 4th Psychological Operations Group and the 346th Psychological Operations Company were responsible for tactical operations in the U.S. Sector of Bosnia.

—J.F.

“Alterations, Tales and Fabrications”

“Why Johnny Can’t Testify”

He who cannot lie doesn't know what truth is.

— Friedrich Nietzsche

In an age when mistrust of our national government is at an all-time high, no federal law-enforcement agency's credibility is more tainted than that of the Treasury Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Grousing about ATF's untruthful tendencies — based on the continuing flood of court cases in which ATF agents lied, entrapped defendants, misled prosecutors and manipulated evidence — once was mainly the province of gun owners.

That was before the unparalleled atrocities spawned by the ATF's botched investigations against white separatist Randy Weaver in Idaho, and David Koresh, leader of a controversial religious sect near Waco, Texas. Because of those two cases, ordinary citizens uninterested in firearms — and even some gun-control advocates — not only gained a first-time familiarity with ATF, but did so mainly in the context of an

agency with a troubled reputation.

While ATF's arson and explosives experts have brought well-deserved kudos to the bureau, their hard-work and successes — such as solving New York's World Trade Center bombing by Islamic terrorists — have been overshadowed by persistent credibility problems surrounding its law-enforcement branch and the enforcement of federal firearms laws.

Those problems persist largely because of the steadfast refusal of ATF management, during the 10-year tenure of former director Steve Higgins and continuing through the three-year reign of present ATF boss John Magaw, to acknowledge even the most well-documented cases of abuse.

For example, in congressional hearings on the Weaver case in the fall of 1995, U.S. Senator Arlen Specter was visibly angered by Magaw's adamant refusal to acknowledge *any* wrongdoing by ATF agents, despite compelling evidence to the contrary, evidence recognized even by ATF's most stalwart congressional apologists.

Text by James L. Pate

That refusal has exacerbated ATF's image problems because few offending agents have been corrected and/or disciplined, and in some cases have even been rewarded with pay bonuses in an attempt to administratively gloss over tarnished credibility.

When author and humorist Mark Twain wrote that "truth is stranger than fiction — to some people," he could have been referring to some ATF agents.

Culling The Incredible

Indeed, the ATF's persistent credibility gap has made the bureau the butt of many jokes: One editorial cartoon on the Waco debacle shows a goofy looking ATF agent holding up a target labeled "Truth." It's been shot full of holes — all outside scoring rings. In the caption, the bumbling bureau's initials are explained as "Alterations, Tales and Fabrications."

While it may be amusing for gun owners to joke about ATF's pernicious penchant for prevarication, it is no laughing matter for taxpayers; whether the staunchest defenders of the Second Amendment or the most ardent advocates of gun control, it is they — not bureaucrats — who must ultimately pay the price of ATF's refusal to punish perjury.

Even though ATF may deny any alleged credibility gap, the problem not only is recognized by Treasury management, but by the Department of Justice (DOJ), whose prosecutors must rely on the supposed truth and veracity of ATF agents when they accept a referral for prosecution from this Treasury Department agency.

At the behest of DOJ, ATF is taking steps to correct the credibility problem, or at least contain its impact on the success of criminal cases.

Several present and past ATF agents have told *Soldier Of Fortune* that bureau management has completed a review of agent personnel files to identify individuals subsequently labeled as "Henthorn agents" — agents whose credibility under oath might not withstand cross examination because of past deeds reflecting poorly on the agent's personal integrity.

These sources, some of whom claim to have set in on management-level briefings on the subject, said at least 140 of ATF's approximately 2,000 special agents —

Joseph A. Vince Jr., chief of the firearms-enforcement division at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, is the fourth-ranking boss at ATF. In his previous assignment, as special agent in charge (SAC) of the Chicago Field Division, he was better known to street agents as "Hollywood Joe," based on his putting media coverage ahead of the safety of agents and the public.

Before his promotion to headquarters, Vince was accused of cozying up to an indicted mobster, ignoring compelling evidence of corruption by law enforcement officers under his supervision and of ordering last-minute changes to the arrest of a gang-banger just to maximize news coverage and impress a visiting political appointee from Washington.

In the latter matter, Vince's vanity resulted in several agents coming under fire, one civilian killed and, according to a follow-up report, was highly detrimental to agent morale (see "Dirty Cops and Robbers" June '96; and "Windy City Scapegoats" July '96).

Hollywood Joe's in the spotlight again, and it's typically an ugly scene. Vince's role in approving tens of thousands of dollars worth of allegedly fraudulent charges on an ATF credit card by one of his assistants is part of an investigation by the U.S. Attorney's office in Washington, D.C.

Special Agent Pat Hynes, ATF's assistant director for public information, said Vince is "not the primary focus" of this investigation. Hynes also said he was advised by a member of the bureau's legal staff that Vince "is not a Henthorn agent."

Be that as it may, this is not the first time Hollywood Joe has been caught up in financial finagling in which ATF squandered taxpayer money like a drunken movie mogul.

According to *SOF's* review of two separate investigative reports by the Treasury Department Office of Inspector General, when Vince was Chicago's SAC and Miami's ASAC, his negligent and/or incompetent oversight allowed chronically sloppy bookkeeping. In Chicago, the OIG report confirmed thousands of dollars in undocumented disbursements from the office fund, falsified receipts and other wrongdoing.

Similar problems were noted in the Miami audit, and in both cases there was a flagrant disregard for Treasury's "don't buy" list of unauthorized purchases.

The latest investigation alleges that Vince's executive assistant was using an ATF credit card to purchase thousands of dollars worth of electronics — lap-top computers, stereos, CD players,



Author's Collection

A Spotlight on Hollywood Joe

VCRs, TVs, microwave ovens, etc. — and then resell them. And each month, Vince apparently signed off on the credit card bill. Over two years, the total illicit purchases totaled tens of thousands of dollars. Some ATF sources put the figure as high as \$134,000, although Hynes said it was "less than \$100,000."

The suspected ATF clerical employee, who'd not been charged as of this writing, was listing the booty each month on ATF letterhead stationery and telefaxing it to prospective buyers at the District of Columbia Police Department for sale at fire-sale prices. Kevin Ohlson, a spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's office, said nine sworn police officers, including an assistant chief and a chaplain, plus nine more civilian employees, were put on administrative leave with pay until the probe is complete.

Ohlson stressed that the metropolitan cops were "legitimately duped into believing this was not stolen property," according to *The Washington Times*, and probably would not be charged.

Vince's assistant was detained for questioning on 7 October by federal investigators, spokesman Hynes confirmed. Hynes stressed that it appears Vince, like the D.C. cops, was unaware of wrongdoing. But one source in ATF's Internal Affairs Division said there is enough evidence to implicate Vince for negligence. He probably will not be charged, the IA source said, because "he's got the good-old-boy, stay-out-of-trouble card." —JLP

Euphemism For Perjury

“...deliberate
falsity...
reckless
disregard for
the truth”

— U.S. Dist. Judge
John M. Manos

Special Agent Steven Wells may be better known for his involvement in ATF's witch hunt against the Louie Katona family (see "Miscarriage of Justice" April '94; and "BAT 'F'-Troop Rides Again" Aug. '94). But he has the unusual distinction of actually being chided for lying. By a U.S. District Court judge. In open court. At least, in so many words.

The prosecution's failure in *United States vs. James A. Palladino* is Wells' fault. Palladino, a major Cleveland mob figure, was indicted on four counts of illegally possessing firearms. The indictment was dismissed because U.S. District Court Judge John M. Manos was forced to grant a defense motion to suppress evidence seized during a search of Palladino's home. Wells' affidavit to obtain the search warrant included "deliberate falsity" and "reckless disregard for the truth," Manos's decision stated.

Those are politely phrased euphemisms for lying, and that translates into legalese as perjury. If the author or the reader made false statements under oath, as did Special Agent Wells, they could expect to be prosecuted for perjury. But not Wells.

"The critical thing about this case is not that the agent lied," said Robert E. Sanders, a former assistant director at ATF, now a lawyer specializing in federal gun law. "No one familiar with the steady erosion of ATF's credibility over the last decade would be shocked by that. The shocking part is that he got caught. Not just caught, but nailed by a federal judge.

"The policy question," Sanders said, "is how does the agency react to evidence that its agent committed perjury? Perjury is a crime. There is only one option. The agency must conduct an investigation to determine if there is probable cause... If so, it is mandatory for the agency to report the findings to the United States Attorney. If prosecution is declined, then the agency can proceed with administrative discipline. Nothing was done to Wells. The inaction is indefensible. This case illustrates corrupt management."

Because of the lack of personnel action against Wells, there is no reason to believe he would be listed as a *Henthorn* agent, despite his "deliberate falsity" and "reckless disregard for the truth."
—JLP

Agent Byerly's Incredible "Typo"

The case against white separatist Randy Weaver was built by piling lies upon lies. Initiated by ATF Special Agent Herb Byerly, the falsehoods he concocted to get Weaver indicted were magnified once Weaver failed to show for trial — the *only* charge on which he was ultimately convicted.

The case was passed off to the U.S. Marshal Service, which added its own whoppers after three of its agents provoked a fire-fight in which one agent and Weaver's 13-year-old son, Sammy, were killed. The Federal Bureau of Investigation failed to verify the "facts" of the shoot out, as related by the marshals, then committed its own crimes, including unconstitutional rules of engagement that allowed a sniper to kill Weaver's wife. To cover up, its agents had to lie and destroy evidence. The career fall-out isn't over.

It all began when ATF Special Agent Byerly convinced U.S. Attorney Maurice Ellsworth to prosecute by telling him Weaver was a major firearms trafficker. The reality was "a poor man sitting out under a shade tree with a couple of shotguns and a hacksaw...trying to feed his family," U.S. Sen. Fred Thompson, of Tennessee, said.

In written and verbal statements to federal prosecutors, Byerly implied that Weaver was a murder suspect and also said he was "a suspect in several... bank robberies," adding that Weaver was implicated by an accomplice who had broken out of jail in Iowa and was hiding on Weaver's property. In addition, Byerly cited "the possibility of a marijuana grow area...near the Weaver residence." It was all lies.

Confronted in Senate hearings with evidence that he had made false statements to the U.S. Attorney and the marshal service, a visibly nervous Byerly hemmed and hawed and finally admitted "a possibility" that he had made false accusations against Weaver in official reports. He said the U.S. Attorney's office was made aware that the allegations were false, but then admitted he had not done so himself and could not explain how such an advisement might have been made.

Asked why the numerous lies about Weaver in an official government letter, detailed in several paragraphs, were attributed to him, Byerly lamely stammered that the information was "a typographical error." His explanation was so ludicrous that people in the hearing room hooted in laughter. —JLP



about 7% — have been identified as “Henthorn agents.” Others put the total as high as 10% of all ATF agents.

ATF’s assistant director for public information, Patrick Hynes, confirmed that there has been a concerted effort to identify “Henthorn agents,” based on a policy order by DOJ. But he said it has been done on a case-by-case basis, as prosecutions come to trial and specific agents must testify.

It would be impractical and inefficient, Hynes pointed out, to review all 2,000 special agent personnel files. Any list would be increasingly out of date as time passed and would require continual updating, because of personnel turnover, or because of integrity questions that arose after such a comprehensive review was completed. The sheer requirements of time and manpower to review 2,000 personnel files would be prohibitive, Hynes said.

Henthorn In The Side Of Liars

The DOJ-mandated search of ATF agent personnel files — and the files of all

other federal law enforcement agents — is based on *United States vs. Henthorn*, in which an appeals court ruled that “the government has a duty to examine the personnel files of law-enforcement officers it intends to call as witnesses if a defendant

is named in civil court cases and in-house administrative hearings, such as adverse personnel actions and any hearing of the Merit Systems Protection Board, the civil service adjudication body, in which an agent might testify.

There also is the case of an ATF agent supervisor with a drinking problem who was caught in *flagrante delicto* with a barmaid in the back seat of his government car.

requests production of the files.”

There are many examples of such cases in which the investigating ATF agent would qualify as an *Henthorn* agent. And not all cases to which the *Henthorn* ruling would pertain are criminal. The ruling, and its ramifications on agent credibility, are perti-

“Just because an agent is found to have a *Henthorn* problem doesn’t totally rule out the possibility that he or she would testify,” Hynes said. “That judgment, like *Henthorn* status itself, is decided on a case-by-case basis. The prosecutor and the judge get together in private and determine the sever-

Agent Morton’s Unpaid Debts

ATF Order 2735.1, Section 43: Indebtedness. (a) Employees shall not without good reason fail to maintain good credit and a reputation for prompt settlement of their just financial obligations in a proper and timely manner. They are expected to maintain their private financial affairs in a manner which will not cause embarrassment to the Treasury Department. ... (b) It will be the responsibility of Regional Personnel Officers to maintain the indebtedness program for their regions. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken against those employees who fail to meet their just financial obligations.

The bad credit history of Kimberly R. McDavid Morton, assigned to ATF’s Chicago region, predates her employment by the bureau. For instance, the Illinois State Scholarship Commission filed a complaint in 1989, alleging her failure to pay student loans totaling \$3,596.85. Another complaint on file alleges that she and her college roommate moved out of an apartment in the middle of the night, owing \$1,762.50 in back rent in 1988.

In the eight years since then, Special Agent Morton has established a pattern of unpaid bills. Complaints obtained from public records by *SOF* document more than \$15,000 in unpaid rent by Morton. More than \$17,000 in additional unpaid debts by Morton or her husband are alleged in other complaints. These debts include \$6,313.37 unpaid for a full-length ranch mink coat Special Agent Morton regularly wore to her office, and \$5,287 in unpaid medical bills. Allegedly unpaid debts accrued by Morton and her husband as of a year ago, just in Cook County, total in the \$35,000-\$40,000 range.

As Morton’s pecuniary problems have persisted, the red ink has spilled over into her workplace. Local records reflect approximately 75 unpaid parking tickets on her assigned government car, which on at least one occasion was “booted” by local police because of her failure to pay parking fines. ATF finally paid off her tickets, at a minimum cost of \$20 each.

Yet she apparently has been able to remain in ATF’s good graces. A memo by Chicago SAC David Benton, dated 27 November 1995, confirms that Morton attended a meeting of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement in Birmingham, Alabama. She attended on government time, and ATF paid all her expenses.

—JLP



Author's Collection

Troy Trounces Truth

David Troy was head of ATF's intelligence operations until Waco. In the first rush of congressional hearings in the weeks following its conclusive conflagration, Troy testified that no one in ATF, neither at headquarters nor in the field operations in Waco, had any inkling that the target of the investigation, David Koresh, was aware that his religious retreat was about to be raided. To have known that the raid had been compromised and ordered it to go ahead anyway, Troy testified, would be "like suicide."

Troy's statements turned out to be near-career suicide. His three immediate superiors, former director Steve Higgins, assistant director for law enforcement Dan Hartnett and Hartnett's assistant, Dan Conroy, were either forced into retirement or chose to quit once the flurry of lies by ATF management became publicly known. Troy was removed from Senior Executive Service (SES) and given a punitive transfer to a job of reduced rank. But he's back in Director John Magaw's good graces again, having since been promoted and returned to the well-paid SES status. But it's a good bet that if there's a *Henthorn* list, David Troy is probably on it.

Troy's
statements turned
out to be
near-career
suicide.

—JLP



James L. Pate

ity of any *Henthorn* disability."

Work-related actions are not the only factors that can lead to integrity problems. Off-duty personal conduct, such as chronic credit problems, could be a factor in developing a *Henthorn* liability. There also are examples in which the case agent had, during the investigation, been involved in a sexual relationship with the wife of the man who was a target of that investigation, according to Robert E. Sanders, a former assistant ATF director.

There also is the case of an ATF agent supervisor with a drinking problem who was caught in *flagrante delicto* with a barmaid in the back seat of his government car in 1986, in a Midwest ATF office parking lot, by a security guard on a routine security patrol just before dawn. The agent supervisor, who was married, denied any impropriety, claiming he was interviewing an informant. (Oh! I get it: He was *pumping* her for information!)

He was written up for improper use of a government vehicle and using an unregistered informant. Transferred to Seattle, he got in a bar fight and was subsequently fired from ATF. (He later was granted a disability pension, based on his chronic alcoholism.)

"In a nutshell, the government has an affirmative obligation to disclose any personnel file information indicating that the agent has been investigated for any matter that brings into question that agent's integrity, truth, or veracity," said Jim Jorgensen, a recently retired ATF agent who is deputy executive director of the National Association of Treasury Agents, or NATA, a non-profit legal services organization.

The government has
a duty to examine
personnel files upon
a defendant's request
for their production.

Detroit-based attorney Kay Kubicki, NATA's general counsel and herself a former ATF agent, said she believes the ATF exercises "considerable latitude" in determining which agents make the *Henthorn* list and which agents do not, despite DOJ's policy guidelines.

Kubicki said two agents who have identical or similar offenses in their personnel file may not necessarily both be listed "because of internal politics" at ATF. An agent with real credibility problems may not be listed as a *Henthorn* agent, she said, because of favoritism by ATF management. In contrast, an otherwise honest agent who's

Continued on page 70

Chuck Sarabyn, Phil Chojnacki

No need to mince words here. These are the two geniuses who ran the Waco raid. They ordered the raid to go ahead, even after their undercover agent told them the heavily armed suspects knew a raid was imminent. Then they lied to investigators about knowing their cover had been blown, and tried to blame the worst disaster in federal law-enforcement history on the undercover agent — the man who'd tried to stop the raid. Chojnacki and Sarabyn were fired — and then rehired— when they threatened to blow the whistle about who at headquarters gave the final order to rush the building. Investigated for perjury in front of congress, they were never charged. How can you tell if they're lying? Their lips are moving. —JLP



Adamcik Checkmated

James Adamcik (pronounced adam-check) was a rising star in ATF. By most accounts, he wasn't particularly street savvy, but he was good at schmoozing with bosses and other influential people. But that promotion strategy got checkmated when Adamcik, then ATF's Chicago ASAC, buddied up with a mob-connected wheeler-dealer named John Boyle.

A subsequent investigative report by the Treasury Department's Office of Inspector General (OIG) noted that Boyle was "well-connected" to organized crime figures and that "Jim Adamcik, ASAC, took Boyle everywhere..." Such as ATF golf tournaments. And ATF parties.

Boyle took Adamcik a few places, too. Such as Chicago Cubs baseball games, along with other bosses from the Chicago ATF office. And things got cozier. Adamcik steered repair work on government cars to Boyle's garage, even though it was 20 miles across town.

Boyle repaid such favors by helping Adamcik buy a private vehicle at



dealer cost. Then there was the allegation that Boyle got Adamcik free pressure-treated lumber to add a patio deck on his home. Boyle even got ATF free use of a posh downtown nightclub for an Elliott Ness birthday bash. He even threw in free tuxedos and "Roaring 20s"-era flapper dresses for agents' wives.

Trouble was, it looked a little funny when it came out that all this time, Boyle was under federal indictment. The morning after the birthday party, where Boyle got a certificate of appreciation from Adamcik's boss, Joe Vince, Boyle pleaded no contest to 13 counts of bank fraud, armored car theft and stealing money from a Federal Reserve Bank.

These facts hit the press at an inopportune time for ATF and Jimmy Adamcik. By then, Adamcik was in charge of a team investigating the Oklahoma City bombing. Whoops. Adamcik got pulled off that little case. He also fibbed to OIG investigators about his relationship with Boyle. If he's not a *Henthorn* agent, he ought to be. —JLP

LONG-RANGE REVENGE



Karen sniper with M16A1 rifle and civilian sporter scope uses rucksack as support on zero range outside "Camp Shooter," somewhere in jungles of southeastern Burma.

Karen Snipers Keep Their Struggle Alive

On 2 February 1996, Brigadier General Kyi Aung of the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) committed war crimes against the Karen, the largest ethnic group contesting the military junta's rule of *Myanmar* (known to the rest of the world as Burma).

He ordered troops of the 2nd Company, 59th Infantry Battalion, of his South Command, to round up a group of villagers in Taungoo district. To properly motivate the Karens, Burmese soldiers gang-raped a 23-year-old woman in front of all of the villagers, including her parents. A group of Karen men, women, children, and elderly then was force-marched in front of the infantry to clear minefields between two other villages.

The general has a long history of ordering executions, rapes, looting, and forced relocation of Karen villagers; small children have been gunned down for target practice. This war criminal, and others like him, operate in the Burmese-occupied areas of the Karen people's national homeland,

Kawthoolei, with virtual impunity.

But he doesn't have all that long to live — if he hasn't been killed already.

An elite group of Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) guerrillas have been honing their scouting and stalking skills and long-distance marksmanship deep in the Burmese jungle. General Kyi Aung likely is at the top of their hit list.

The KNLA's sniper-training site was located just across the Burma-Thailand border in the Dawna Range highlands not too far from Mae Sot or Um Phang. Its precise location isn't important now: It was moved for security purposes immediately after my departure. Within weeks the camp would have reverted back to jungle.

Training regularly is suspended and a camp moved to ensure security. New facilities are quickly hacked out of the jungle.

**Text & Photos by
Rob Krott**

Bamboo provides lean-tos and sleeping platforms. The snipers are jungle guerrillas born to it; they travel lightly, their few meager possessions fitting in rucksacks.

The Karen Scout-Sniper Unit is training hard with the intention of dealing death to Burmese army officers from long range. The Karen I observed practicing these skills were no amateurs. And the idea of taking out a general officer is neither far-fetched nor entirely original: Kachin guerrillas were able to cut off Myitkyina in early 1984 and in 1985 they killed Brig. Gen. Kun Phan, Northern Region commander, as he was leaving Myitkyina's golf course (another reason not to play that stupid game).

Into The Mountains

Through contacts with Vietnam veterans living in Bangkok, I was introduced to "Bob," a former Army Special Forces NCO who had seen much combat during SOG recon missions. With Bob as my guide and with his contacts among the KNLA leadership, I soon found myself on the Burma-Thailand border.

Now I only needed a ride across the mountains and into Karen-held territory.

A Toyota pickup soon rolled up. In it were Colonel Isaac and two of his staff officers. All were armed. These men take no chances as SLORC hit teams have reached as far as Bangkok just to kill a Karen captain. First stop was Isaac's house: a traditional, two-story Thai house with tin roof. Inside, amidst the usual household clutter of communal family living, were several makeshift personal-computer stations competing for space with fax machines, photocopiers, and telephones. The industrious and beleaguered Karen freedom fighters are on-line and prepared to take their fight into cyberspace via CD-ROM.

After spending some time with the on-line guerrillas, I and my guides continued our journey to Karen-held Kawthoolei, a nine-hour drive through the mountains.

The Burmese side of the Dawna Range has been battered by some of the fiercest fighting in the 47-year-long insurgency. One published estimate puts the death toll of SLORC's war against the Karens at 10,000 a year.

At the end of the line we turned off a dirt road in Thailand and wound our way up a narrow path through the jungle. We crossed the unmarked border and I only realized where we were when we passed a KNLA checkpoint complete with flag and Karen sentry. Farther down the road we entered a large village full of armed guerrillas.

Karen insurgents led by General Bo Mya had split into many small, operational units after the headquarters of the Karen National Union (KNU) and KNLA at Manerplaw was overrun in January 1995.

Manerplaw, about 175 miles southeast of Rangoon, was the headquarters of the Christian-led KNLA for more than 21 years. It and several other large, defensive complexes prevailed as long as the *Tatmadaw* (SLORC's name for the national army) infantry threw itself against the barbed wire and minefields without adequate artillery support or engineer breaching. The inviolability of the Thai border had protected the Karens' rear. But all of that changed.

Determined to take Manerplaw, the *Tatmadaw* massed more than 60 artillery pieces, including 120mm mortars and 105mm howitzers, behind two hills opposite the camp. Its fall — part of a major offensive — was a serious blow to the Karen and other Burmese pro-democracy groups.

Moreover, at that time about 500 Buddhist Karen had broken from the KNU/KNLA, formed the Democratic Kayin Buddhist Organization (DKBO), and allied with SLORC. The DKBO's fighters, possessing insiders' knowledge of several Karen fortresses, even acted as guides for the government's onslaught of 20 battalions. Adding to the KNLA's problems, the



Sniper attaches new scope to M16 as partner holds Camp Shooter's only "toolbox": a Leatherman multitool. These Karen guerrillas wear hand-me-down jungle boots — and are lucky. Some go barefooted.



Karen grenadier (left) with M79 "bloop gun" and belts of 40mm rounds sets out on patrol with team. Red scarf identifies unit in jungle.

Sniper team practices with heavy barreled, bolt-action Ruger .308 rifle under watchful eye of unit NCO. Karen snipers' mission is to kill Burmese army officers, some of whom commit atrocities against unarmed civilians — Karen and other ethnic groups — as part of SLORC persecution.





courtesy James Donahue

The Karen freedom fighters' enemy: Burmese government soldiers (here, paratroopers at demonstration) in the last two years have overrun several KNLA strongholds. The Rangoon junta has upgraded its army with heavy artillery purchased from China and its air force with purchases of Polish Mi-2 attack helicopters, Chinese Jian-7 jet fighters, and Yugoslav G-4 light ground-attack jets.

Thai army looked the other way as Burmese army units crossed the border in pursuit of retreating guerrillas.

Bo Mya and his staff escaped. They relocated their headquarters to a new temporary base — “temporary” so it may be moved about easily for security purposes.

Real Snake-Eaters

When I got out of the pickup truck I looked around and gratefully stretched my cramped legs. We were parked in front of Bo Mya's house. The general soon presented himself.

He showed me an AN-PVS 200 Nightsight manufactured by Excalibur. I'm familiar with the products of the Pennsylvania company; its “200” basically is a hybrid copy of the “starlight scope” I had used in the U.S. Army. Bo Mya was having some problems with his.

He pulled out the “battery” and asked, through Colonel Isaac, if I could get replacements. Using my pocket knife I removed the retaining screw on the top of the battery-adapter to reveal the four AA batteries that needed to be replaced. The other problem was trying to get the battery-adapter well cap back in place once the adapter was replaced in the scope. Someone already had tried to muscle it in and had done some damage.

After fiddling with the night-vision device, I said goodbye to Bo Mya and waited for a ride to an operational unit which Bob had hooked me up with.

I waited a few hours. The Karen snipers arrived in a battered pickup. They dismounted and moved like wraiths through the camp on a midnight requisition. Total haul: an M79 grenade launcher and six rounds. Then we drove off into the night.

Comprising bamboo shelters, “Camp Shooter” was neat, efficient, and professionally laid out. Hidden in a narrow valley of heavy jungle and bamboo thickets with an eye toward defensibility and security, it had its own water supply in a spring-fed mountain stream. Armed sentries with orders to

“shoot to kill” roved the camp's perimeter 24 hours a day.

First I made sure everyone knew there was a *kalawa* (white man) in the camp who didn't speak the language, then rolled out my poncho liner on the split-bamboo flooring of my designated hootch. I fell fast asleep despite the cacophony of jungle creatures including the *phuoc you* lizards.

At night it cooled off, but never enough to drive off the damned mosquitoes. In this guerrilla war in Southeast Asia the most common illness is malaria; the most common combat wounds are to the legs from land mines.

In the morning I checked in with the commander, Lieutenant Ley Moo. I was offered breakfast and told, “We have two meals here: yellow beans and rice and rice and yellow beans.” I later noticed a dearth of cobras and other deadly reptiles in the jungle around the camp. The guerrillas had eaten them all.

Things were relatively quiet in this area. Patrols sent out by a forward Karen unit located along a ridge of hills had intermittent contact with SLORC patrols. Having come in at night I didn't know much about my location except the general direction of

the last major Thai border village we'd passed through. By daylight I was able to determine my approximate location from the Thai border — just in case.

I didn't have a current map of the area. Nor did the guerrillas: The most recent topo I saw was a 1943 British army map. The Karen, however, are operating on home ground.

Life At “Camp Shooter”

The scout-sniper unit takes in four men from each brigade, trains them, retains two and sends two back. Thus, the unit continues to grow in size as well as providing well-trained, highly disciplined cadre for their parent brigades' own special units.

I spent the first afternoon at Camp Shooter observing training. They even had a “textbook”: John L. Plaster's *The Ultimate Sniper*, portions of which were translated into Karen. In a classroom hut, I could easily decipher some of the blackboard diagrams and follow along on the equipment orientations. The instructors were top-notch, but occasionally got a little ahead of themselves, with near-comical results: In doing wind-drift computations, only four out of 28 students could perform simple math and conceptualize angles and degrees. A remedial class was quickly organized.

Zeroing new scopes on various weapons was conducted while other shooters fine-tuned the accuracy of existing weapons. (The camp's sole Leatherman tool was in great demand.) An ingenious moving target board had been improvised for the range; a few of the shooters were busy punching holes in it.

The Karen field highly disciplined units. Because the KNLA is Christian-led, the camps are “dry.” As a people the Karen have high moral standards; many of the young, unmarried troops who die in combat go to their graves as virgins. But there is at least one vice. In a culture where all males (adolescent and older) walk around with a cheroot cigar clamped between their teeth, the Karen scout-snipers are attempting to become non-smokers. Nicotine weakens night vision and affects muscular control and steadiness when



Karen troops with M16 (left) and bolt-action rifles with scopes take turns in practice fire on moving target board about 100 meters downrange.

aiming. Also, for security purposes they cannot smoke on their missions. The shooters all are trying to quit but it seemed, so far, to be a losing battle.

The scout-snipers are self-sufficient. They have to be; the KNLA is virtually bankrupt. Things were good when the Karen had the tax revenues on trade at the border crossings. With the successful Burmese offensives, the Karen no longer profit from taxing smugglers. Most of the KNLA's soldiers are in refugee camps across the border, and the Thais confiscated many weapons.

The scout-snipers scrounge weapons, equipment — almost everything. Troops are issued one uniform a year, anything from black BDUs to captured Burmese fatigues of brown khaki (with the bullet holes mended), Thai woodland or tiger-stripe cammies, spotted “duck-hunter” fatigues, or American-style jungle fatigues. Footgear includes Thai jungle boots, tennis shoes, and the cheap rubber, Chinese sandals found everywhere in Asia. Many Karen fighters simply go barefoot.

Further, KNLA troops have to be dedicated to the cause: They receive no pay. Any money for personal items must come from their families or somehow be earned. (Some of the guerrillas just recently were treated for abscesses because of the lack of soap for washing.) While some of the top Karen leaders drive new Toyotas and maintain homes in Bangkok, their jungle troops eat two bowls of rice a day flavored with fish paste and peppers — and go without simple necessities. Even scout-sniper Sergeant Major Sartoo, who has been fighting for 16 years, carries everything he owns in his rucksack.

Two Totos And A Gomer

Weapons fielded by the Karen tell the history of this part of Southeast Asia. Looking around, I saw plenty of Chinese Kalashnikovs, an occasional Czech vz-58 rifle, Burmese-made HK33 assault rifles, and lots of M1 carbines (favored by many of the older fighters). I saw many M79 grenade launchers, plenty of RPGs, and Burmese copies of the German MG3 general-purpose machine gun. The guerrillas carry odd assortments of hand grenades: everything from the less-than-totally reliable Chinese stick grenades to rusting “pineapples” and other well-worn frags.

The M16s rifles issued to the unit were an assortment from Thailand, Singapore, and the United States (Vietnam-era). At least one rifle, sporting an old-style forward assist, bore no proofs or markings except for a serial number. Another had the old three-prong flash suppressor. Cartridges were also a mixed bag.

My second day with the unit we received a “resupply” of 500 rounds of 5.56x45mm rounds loose in an old rice sack. I identified 16 different lot groups. There was everything from “Royal Thai Arsenal” to “Lake City Arsenal” to “Philippines State Arsenal”; age was anywhere from five to 25 years. The



Snipers study the science of killing at long range in open-air classrooms at Camp Shooter. Primary textbook is *The Ultimate Sniper*, by John L. Plaster, a U.S. Army Special Forces veteran of Vietnam.

ammunition wasn't all shootable either: 10-20% was corroded or badly dinged up.

The Karen scout-sniper unit has some interesting characters.

Lieutenant Ley Moo, the commander, is the son of an ordained Baptist minister. He was a math teacher in Rangoon until he was arrested and imprisoned for six months before escaping. Fleeing to Kawthoolei, he found work as a teacher, but soon joined the KNLA and developed expertise in heavy weapons and then sniping.

“Toto” is a veteran of a 1994 mission that killed 33 enemy troops, reportedly all sergeants or above. He and some men later penetrated 70 miles into SLORC territory. Toto, 26, speaks seven languages and writes five; he has been a soldier since age 10. He's good in the bush — and should be: He formerly was an executive officer of KNLA special forces at Camp Jean Phillipe, a base founded by French Foreign Legion veterans who trained about 300 Karen in the late '80s. (On the other hand, French mercs now run patrols along natural-gas pipelines crossing Mon and Karen tribal lands.)



Scout-sniper Lt. Ley Moo, a former math teacher in Rangoon, adjusts rifle scope while relaxing in his bamboo hut.

Then there's “Toto 2 the Thai.” He always carries a .38 Colt revolver; the back of his shooting hand bears a death's head tattoo. The former Thai special-forces trooper immensely enjoys killing SLORC troops, and often travels across the border as a bodyguard for the Karen leadership. He's definitely not someone to mess with in a Bangkok alley or the Burmese jungle.

Because many soldiers still have family in SLORC-occupied areas, other men have pseudonyms like “Grasshopper” and “Ringworm.” The sniper “Blade” got his handle by killing 21 enemy soldiers with a knife. “Gomer” took some shrapnel in the head a few years ago; as one of the snipers told me, “We don't let him play with the explosives.”

Still, Gomer shoots 1 1/2-inch groups at 300 yards with a beat-up Interarms bolt-action rifle mounting a battered Simmons 4X9 scope. Nobody knows how he does it. He just does.

Field Repairs

Later on I walked to Ley Moo's hootch. His snipers were having problems with the compatibility of 1-inch scope mounts Bob had bought in Thailand and a Ruger Model 77, bolt-action .308 rifle. It had been purchased for a whopping (U.S.) \$1200 on the black market — *without* rings, scope or ammo.

The lieutenant suggested using epoxy to fix the scope mounts. It had been done before with a night scope on an M16. A sniper argued: “That was on an M16, Ley Moo! The buffer assembly on the M16 lessens the recoil. The recoil from the 7.62mm rounds will break the epoxy. We can't send MacCoo and Blade out on a mission with this weapon like that.”

Someone suggested swapping this “shit weapon” for one of Gen. Bo Mya's personal rifles so they could start mission-oriented training right away — which brought laughter. (The mission start time was 10 days

Continued on page 68

Natural Born Killers

by Richard Sherrow

Photos courtesy McDonnell Douglas



In the early morning darkness of 16 January 1991, the calm skies over Iraq exploded as Operation Desert Shield became Operation Desert Storm. While the air war in the Persian Gulf began, an Air Force briefing officer told the gathered news media that at 0300 hours multitudes of USAF, Navy and Marine jets had struck into the heart of Iraq. As almost an afterthought he added, "U.S. Army AH-64 Apache attack helicopters also took part." However, the real honor of drawing first blood in the air war went to the Army — the 101st Air Assault Division's Task Force Normandy. Comprising two teams of four AH-64A Apache attack helicopters each (Team Red and Team White), Task Force Normandy's crucial mission was to take out key Iraqi air-defense centers that guarded the 80-mile flight path to be taken by Allied strike aircraft assigned to destroy Iraqi SCUD emplacements.

The Apache teams were guided in their initial approach by a pair of Air Force MH-53J Pave Low SpecOps helicopters. The Pave Lows, along with an Apache gunship, held at the Iraqi border in case they were needed for a rescue operation. Meanwhile, the Apaches of Teams Red and White, flying 50 feet off the deck under enemy radar, continued toward their objectives. At 0238 hours, the war truly began as Apache-launched Hellfire laser-guided missiles blasted the Iraqi air defense sites into oblivion with 100% accuracy.

Apache! The very name conjures an image of some of the finest light cavalry in history. Consummate survivors in a hostile environment, the Apache warrior of a century ago possessed the unique ability to see and share information on the battlefield and then strike from concealment like an unleashed lightning bolt, raining death and destruction on an unsuspecting enemy. It is indeed fitting that the U.S. Army's most lethal warbird bears the proud name Apache.

Nearly a dozen years ago I had the opportunity to get up close and personal with my first AH-64A Apache attack helicopter at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif. Although I had accumulated several hundred aircrew hours in UH-1D Hueys and OH-58 Kiowas, and even a couple short hops in the AH-1Q Huey Cobra during my military career, no helicopter ever impressed me like the Apache. Squatting tail-low on the tarmac it looked for all the world like the offspring of a giant prehistoric dragonfly that had somehow mated

SOF T&Es The Longbow Apache



Agile and survivable Longbow Apache is at home in a battlefield environment. (left) Even the AH-64A Apache, here firing 70mm rockets, was a well-armed, born killer.



Only one Longbow Apache need “pop-up” to recon battlefield and acquire target information before it re-hides: Not only can it then engage targets from cover, it can relay target data to others on its team, who may engage targets without ever exposing themselves to hostile fire. (below) In addition to Hellfire missiles, Longbow Apache carries 30mm chain gun, which can engage aerial or ground targets. (right) Awesome firepower of Apache is illustrated by AH-64A with assortment of ordnance that includes 1,200 rounds of 30mm, wingtip-mounted air-to-air missiles, up to 76 70mm aerial rockets or 16 Hellfire missiles — or a combination of both. External fuel tanks are also shown.



with a tank. Replete with racks of Hellfire guided missiles and 2.75-inch rocket pods clustered under its stubby wings, and an evil-looking M230 30mm Chain Gun cannon bristling from under its chin, there was no doubt this was the quintessential bird of prey. This was not a machine that whispered grace and political correctness or begged for some cutesy-poo nickname. The Apache is a born warrior.

The Gulf Was Only A Q-Course

Even as the AH-64A Apaches were proving themselves in battle in the Gulf War, a dramatically upgraded version was rapidly taking shape on the drawing boards of McDonnell Douglas Helicopter Systems in Mesa, Arizona. Designated the AH-64D Longbow Apache, it has been described as a “quantum improvement over existing system.” These days everything seems to be “quantum” this or that, turbo-charged, super-duper, etc. Being a skeptic at heart, I would reserve judgment — but there proved to be no doubt. Indeed, the words “quantum improvement” were an understatement.

One of the first steps on SOF’s inspection of the McDonnell Douglas helicopter facility was the U.S. Army’s A Company, 1st Battalion, 14th Aviation Regiment to get a military pilot’s perspective of the Longbow Apache. Commanded by Major Patrick Garman, the unit’s mission is to provide crossover training for AH-64D instructor pilots and maintenance personnel. A veteran of Desert Storm, Garman saw combat as an AH-64A Apache pilot and commander of A Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Aviation

Regiment. In addition to the usual combat assignments, he had the unique experience of capturing fleeing Iraqi troops with his Apache attack helicopter. This bizarre feat consisted mainly, he said, of landing, making sure the enemy was disarmed, tossing them a few MREs and telling them to haul ass for Coalition lines.

Having flown the AH-64A under combat conditions, Garman quickly summed up his impression of the Longbow Apache in one word: “Awesome!” Although new systems are normally referred to as being “evolutionary,” Garman prefers “revolutionary” when speaking of the Longbow Apache. In short order I had to fully agree.

Transition Training From A To D

As existing A model Apaches undergo conversion into D models, so too will the pilots and maintenance personnel. The initial cadre of A/1-14th Aviation Regiment pilots will receive classroom and simulator training from McDonnell Douglas Training Systems and then fly under the guidance of McDonnell Douglas Helicopter Systems’ pilots. The first group of Army instructor and maintenance pilots are scheduled to complete their Longbow Apache training in February 1997 and then will train other Army pilots in Mesa until April 1999. During their transition from the AH-64A to the AH-64D, pilots will spend 200 hours in the classroom, 32 hours on a simulator, and 20 hours in flight. Maintenance personnel will spend 168 hours in the classroom, followed by a whopping 748 hours hands-on.

At first glance the Longbow Apache





AH-64D Longbow Apache fires 70mm CRV7 air-to-ground rockets during tests at Army's Yuma, Ariz., Proving Ground. A born hunter, nothing is safe on ground or in the air when Longbow Apache is on prowl. The AH-64D Longbow Apache pilot's crewstation (left inset) is a leading-edge installation, even compared to the state-of the art AH-64A version. (below) AH-64D Longbow Apache is equipped with mast-mounted Longbow Fire Control Radar, key to its mastery of the battlefield.



doesn't seem that much different from the basic Apache: a bulbous, mast-mounted radar dome, elongated avionics pods, and a more digitized cockpit. But beauty is definitely more than skin deep. The conversion process begins by stripping the aircraft to the absolute bare bones. Wiring, instruments, controls, armament systems are removed until nothing remains but the basic airframe.

All wiring harnesses are replaced by new light-weight systems. Improved General Electric 701C gas-turbine engines increase performance as well as reduce the threat from heat-seeking missiles by means of an infrared (IR) signature suppression system. This unique system forces large quantities of cool air over the exhaust pipes, as well as mixing the cool air with the hot exhaust gases and deflecting them away from the aircraft, thereby greatly reducing the thermal signature that IR missiles home on. In addition, the Longbow Apache further foils enemy weapons systems with onboard flare and chaff dispensers as well as an electronic infrared jamming system.

Even with the best counter-measures,



Did we say agile? A multi-role combat helicopter, the AH-64A completes aerobatics maneuver to illustrate its flexibility for both air-to-ground and air combat missions.

the odds in combat are that sooner or later you are going to get shot. Whether it's Abdul popping at you with an AK or a 12.7mm DShK, or Boris in a ZSU-23-4 trying to blast you out of the sky with 23mm HE rounds, the results can be disastrous. While the armor protection of the original Apache helicopter is outstanding, the survivability of the Longbow Apache is truly remarkable. With self-sealing fuel cells and upgraded ballistic armor, this aircraft virtually ignores hits from 7.62mm weapons, is highly tolerant of 12.7mm strikes, and will even survive direct hits by 23mm high explosive rounds. In addition, should the craft be shot down, its uniquely constructed cockpit is specifically designed to allow the crew to survive a 20-G crash (20 times the force of gravity). All this has been combined to make the AH-64D an astonishing 720% more survivable than its predecessor, the AH-64A.

A Flying Arsenal

Although specifically designed as a tank killer, the AH-64D boasts an impressive array of armament that enable it to perform a variety of missions, ranging from close ground support and ground suppression to actual air-to-air combat. Located under the nose of the aircraft is the M230 30mm chain gun. Control of the gun is achieved through the gunner's Integrated Helmet and Display Sighting System (IHADSS). Electronically linked to the Target Acquisition Designation Sight (TADS) and the Pilot Night Vision Sensor (PNVS) located in the nose of the Longbow Apache, the IHADSS controls sighting of the chain gun by sensing movement of the gunner's head. As the gunner looks toward a target, small IR sensors in his helmet respond to signals from the IR emitter located behind the gunner's seat and transmit the data to the gun. What the gunner sees, the gun automatically engages.



Among the ordnance carried by the AH-64D Longbow Apache are the AGM-114 Hellfire AT missile (outboard on wing, inset) and the AGM-65 Maverick TV guided missile, either of which can service their appropriate targets with pinpoint accuracy.



Should the sensors detect as little as a three-degree variance, the safety override takes over, shutting down the system. Armed with 1,200 M789 High Explosive Armor-Piercing Fragmentation (HEAP-FRAG) rounds, this linkless-feed-system fires at a rate of 625 rounds per minute, making it a very formidable threat to most ground or air targets it engages.

The underwing stores range from pods of 2.75 inch (70mm) air-to-ground rockets to AGM-114L Hellfire anti-tank radio-frequency (RF) guided missiles and Stinger anti-aircraft guided missiles. In addition, wing-mounted external fuel tanks extend the AH-64D's range.

While retaining the AGM-114F laser-guided Hellfire's dual shaped-charge warhead (designed to defeat tanks equipped with reactive armor), the AGM-114L Longbow Apache Hellfire is specifically designed for the AH-64D. Incorporating a new millimeter-wave radar guidance unit, the Longbow Apache Hellfire is a fire-and-

forget weapon. An improvement over the laser-guided Hellfire, which required the helicopter to remain unmasked while the gunner kept the laser trained on the target until impact, the radar-guided fire-and-forget Hellfire allows the Longbow Apache to pop-up, fire one or more missiles, and immediately drop behind cover. Combined with the Longbow Apache millimeter-wave Fire Control Radar, the AH-64D can automatically detect, classify and prioritize multiple targets, and fire up to 16 independently targeted AGM-114L missiles ... all in a matter of seconds.

Lifting The Fog Of War

The old adage, "if you can't see it you can't hit it" can still apply on the modern battlefield. Dust, smoke, and other obscurants can, quite literally, blind many weapons systems, dramatically reducing their effectiveness. Not so with the Longbow Apache millimeter-wave Fire Control Radar (FCR). Contained in the donut-shaped housing mounted atop the main rotor, the FCR quite effectively lifts "the fog of war." In the air-targeting mode, the Longbow Apache's FCR sweeps a 360 degree circle, identifying up to three categories of threat, then burst transmits the information to other units.

In the ground-targeting mode the Longbow Apache system sweeps the battlefield with its millimeter-wave radar, dividing it into 15-90 degree pie-shaped wedges. In seconds it can capture more than 1,000 targets, and categorize 256 of the targets into five classes: wheeled vehicles, tracked vehicles, air defense vehicles, helicopters, and fixed wing aircraft. It then prioritizes and displays 16 of the highest threat targets, further indicating which should be engaged first! Should friendly troops be in the target area the pilot can draw no-fire zones around them on his multi-function display screen using his cursor. The fire control computer will then prevent any firing into the "friendly" area. However, should an enemy vehicle enter the "no fire" zone the lockout may be manually overrid-



During Operation Desert Storm, in a sandy environment hostile to any precision machine, Army AH-64A Apaches were maintained at readiness rates in excess of 80%. Longbow Apache maintenance has been made easier — not simpler — by innovative computerized maintenance manuals and protocols.

overridden and the target engaged. This sounds great in theory, but does it work in practice? During last year's Initial Operational Test and Evaluation (IOTE) exercises at Ft. Hunter Liggett, Calif., eight AH-64A Apaches and six AH-64D Longbow Apaches were pitted against a very sophisticated 2004-era digitalized threat. After 12 night and three day scenarios the "As" experienced 34 incidents of fratricide (killing one of your own) — while the "Ds" had zero!

Unlike previous systems, the FCR has proven extremely effective not only in a target-obscured environment, but also under adverse weather conditions. During recent four-day, four-night field tests at China Lake, Calif., two AH-64Ds fired 20 radar frequency (RF) and six laser-guided (SAL) Hellfire missiles at a target array of moving and stationary T-72 tanks, stationary wheeled vehicles, and non-emitting ZSU-23-4 air defense units. In the same test an AH-64A Apache fired 13 SAL Hellfires. In conditions of smoke obscurants 90% of the RF missiles hit, while none of the SAL missiles scored.

On today's modern battlefield it is not enough to be able to see and kill the enemy. It has become just as critical that you know exactly where you are at all times. This is especially true when you are a moving aircraft. Earlier Apaches employed a navigation system that coupled the Attitude-Heading Reference System (AHRS) with the ASN-137 Doppler-Velocity Measuring System. By utilizing a down-looking doppler radar the helicopter's speed and movement over ground were constantly compared to a set of pre-loaded coordinates, thus continually displaying the craft's position in relation to the ground. As advanced as this system was, it did have a critical flaw. Over a period of time the system had a tendency to "drift," thereby causing the crew to believe that they were in one place when, in actuality, the aircraft had physically moved (sometimes up to several kilometers) from

where it should have been. This flaw was tragically demonstrated by the only incident of Apache fratricide committed during nearly 10,000 AH-64A missions flown in Desert Storm. An Apache crew attached to the 1st Infantry Division became confused when the aircraft instruments indicated differing threat coordinates than those reported by the ground unit. Relying on the ground unit's information rather than the coordinates displayed on the aircraft fire control panel, the gunner mistook the U.S. armored vehicles for Iraqi. As a result, two Hellfire guided missiles were fired, destroying an American M2 Bradley and an M113 armored personnel carrier. Two American servicemen were killed and six wounded. To help prevent such incidents the Longbow Apache has integrated a dual (two separate systems) tri-service embedded Global Positioning

equipment a weapons system has, it's worthless if it doesn't work. AH-64A Apache maintenance personnel relied on an astonishing 74 technical manuals (32,000 pages) to aid in troubleshooting and repair of the aircraft.

Not so the Longbow Apache team. Because rapid and reliable maintenance is essential, the AH-64D support crews now have a revolutionary new diagnostic tool in their inventory: The first of its kind for any military service, the interactive Electronic Technical Manual replaces the scores of manuals with a lap-top computer and two compact discs. Known as the SPORT, the computer delivers 23% faster fault isolation time and 60% faster fault solution time.

Joint Stars

Throughout history, military comman-



During the re-manufacturing process to become AH-64D Longbow Apaches, original AH-64s are stripped to the basic airframe and rebuilt from the guts out. Inset: stripped and re-primed, Apache begins the rebuild process.

System/Inertial Navigation (EGI) system. Linked to some two dozen orbiting satellites, the GPS automatically feeds corrected positioning data into the Inertial System, thus insuring that the aircraft is actually where the instruments say it is.

Regardless of how much high-tech

ders have recognized the necessity of having a clear view of the battlefield and the ability to relay tactical orders in a secure and speedy manner as vital to victory. From the time the first general sent an observer scampering up a tree to get an aerial view of enemy positions it has been desirable to look down on the field of battle. Trees and hilltops gave way to balloons and bi-planes. Today we rely on satellites and spy planes. The objective, however, has remained the same — gathering and relaying real-time tactical intelligence.

Not only does the Longbow Apache see the battlefield, it can rapidly exchange its information with up to 15 different fire support and intelligence radio nets, both in the air and on the ground. Unquestionably, one of the most important of these is the Air Force's E-8 Joint STARS (J-STARS) reconnaissance aircraft. A converted Boeing 707, J-STARS has an eagle's-eye view of hundreds of miles of battlefield. The key to linking the Longbow Apache to J-STARS is an improved high-speed data modem that allows Longbow Apache crews and J-STARS to quickly exchange digital information on the battlefield.

With 411 systems working together, a typical tactical scenario would unfold as

MULTI-MISSION FLEXIBILITY					PERFORMANCE		
Wingtip	Starboard Wing	Cannon	Port Wing	Wingtip	Max Level FlightSpeed (V _H)	Mission Duration	Mission Range
					138 knots	2.68 hours	470 kilometers
2 ATAM	4 Hellfire 19 FFAR	1,200 Rounds 30mm	4 Hellfire 19 FFAR	2 ATAM			
MULTI-ROLE MISSION					PERFORMANCE		
Wingtip	Starboard Wing	Cannon	Port Wing	Wingtip	Max Level FlightSpeed (V _H)	Mission Duration	Mission Range
					136 knots	2.67 hours	460 kilometers
2 ATAM	4 Hellfire 19 FFAR	1,200 Rounds 30mm	4 Hellfire 19 FFAR	2 ATAM			
CLOSE-SUPPORT MISSION					PERFORMANCE		
Wingtip	Starboard Wing	Cannon	Port Wing	Wingtip	Max Level FlightSpeed (V _H)	Mission Duration	Mission Range
					140 knots	2.70 hours	485 kilometers
2 ATAM	4 Hellfire 19 FFAR	1,200 Rounds 30mm	4 Hellfire 19 FFAR	2 ATAM			
GROUND-SUPPRESSION					PERFORMANCE		

Continued on page 68



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The Saga of Mad Dog

Continued from page 33

sibility of treachery. As it turned out, it was more than a mere possibility.

A year later, National Security Agency assets twice intercepted enemy radio messages warning of imminent SOG operations — information that could only have come from a mole in SOG headquarters. It would only be long after the war that it became clear Hanoi's *Trinh Sat* had penetrated SOG, inserting at least one traitorous, high-ranking South Vietnamese officer whose treachery killed untold Americans and indigenous troops including, most likely, the COSVN raiders.

Of those raiders, Lt. Marcantel, survived his wounds only to die six months later in a parachuting accident at Fort Devens, Mass., while Capt. Cahill was medically retired. Eventually, SF medic Jamison's body was recovered.

Those lost in the COSVN raid have not been forgotten.

Under a beautiful spring sky on Memorial Day 1993, with American flags waving and an Army Reserve Huey strewing flower petals as it passed at low level, members of the Special Forces Association Chapter 20 assembled at Lt. Harrigan's grave in Minneapolis, Minn. Before the lieutenant's family, an honor guard placed a beret at his grave, conferring some recognition to the fallen SOG man (a gesture the COSVN raid's high classification made impossible a quarter-century earlier). Until now, neither Harrigan's family nor the families of the other lost men knew the full story of that top-secret raid.

But the story remains incomplete: As in the case of SOG's other MIAs, Hanoi continues to deny knowledge of Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Shriver.

O'Rourke believes Mad Dog died on that terrible day in 1969.

"I felt very privileged to have been his friend," he said, "and when he died I grieved as much as for my younger brother when he was killed. Twenty-some odd years later, it still sticks in my craw that I wasn't there. I wish I had been there."

There remains a popular myth among SOG veterans that someday Mad Dog Shriver will emerge from the Cambodian jungle, look right and left and holler, "Hey! Where'd everybody go?" Indeed, to those who knew him and fought beside him, Mad Dog will live forever.

Two weeks after the COSVN raid, the author landed in Cambodia's Ratanakiri Province with eight men to assess the third top-secret B-52 strike. The book SOG: The Secret Wars of America's Commandos in Vietnam, copyright (c) 1997 by John L. Plaster, from which this article is derived, is published by Simon & Schuster. Plaster and the late Greg Harrigan were boyhood friends in Minneapolis.

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Propaganda For Peace

Continued from page 47

louder and started harassing the locals who accepted copies of *Herald of Peace*. Soon a rock was tossed, and it hit one of the army's translators on the leg.

With memories of the recent "riot" still fresh, no one was sure if this incident was going to blow up or just fade away. The TPT had to show their readiness to stand their ground without inflaming the situation. They had given away all their newspapers, but they continued milling about the marketplace, careful not to point their weapons at any of the civilians. The drunk shouted some more and tossed another rock, but no one else joined in. Finally, the inebriated troublemaker had to settle for sneering at the soldiers and cursing at passersby. Convinced they had shown enough resolve, the team moved on.

Working on foot in twos and fours among crowds of locals, the PsyOps teams are the easiest targets if anything goes wrong. One of the team members said, "Even when the people are friendly you have to have security, you can never forget that at any moment someone might start shooting at you." The TPTs are very conscious of the delicate balance between this need for security and the uncomfortable image of an occupation force. It's hard enough to make the locals feel they are partners in the peace process under ideal circumstances, but with "warrants" issued for Serb leaders and the excavation of mass graves, the challenge has become even greater.

The area contains several grave sites, which are said to hold the bodies of Muslims allegedly executed by the Serbs who took the "safe haven" of Srebrenica last summer. They are being dug up by an

international team of forensic anthropologists, at the request of the United Nations, in search of evidence for the war crimes tribunal at the Hague, Netherlands. Although, officially, the digs have nothing to do with IFOR, U.S. troops must provide security for the excavation team. Official policy pays careful attention to semantics, stressing that the Army is *not* protecting grave sites, but local perception is more important than the facts. Angry about the war crimes "warrants," local Serbs don't make the careful separation between IFOR troops and the U.N.-sponsored investigators.

Attempting to counter such perceptions, the TPTs visit the smaller Serb villages in the region of the grave sites to display the American forces as a friendly presence. In a tiny village not far from Vlasenica, an old woman approached the soldiers as they walked past her barn. The team leader tried to start a tentative conversation. The grandmother proudly told him how she served as a lookout for the Serb forces in the area during the fighting, stressing the fact that she was fairly good with a gun — not exactly a warm welcome. Still, like a skilled hostage negotiator, the team chief kept her talking and after a while, her neighbors came to their fences and accepted the election literature the team wanted to give out. A mother allowed her young son to take the coloring book and crayons the captain offered.

Another family invited the soldiers for coffee, and the real work began.

In this part of Bosnia, hearts and minds are won one family at a time.

Based in New York, freelance photographer JoMarie Fecci specializes in photographing areas of conflict, having covered Bosnia, Armenia, El Salvador, the West-Bank and Gaza, Haiti and other troubled areas. ☒

DO PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS ERODE WAR-FIGHTING SKILLS?

Operation Joint Endeavor has been underway for a year, and the units deployed to the Bosnian AO have done many things — but among them are very few of the things they've trained so hard for. Day-to-day peacekeeping is largely dull and routine. Bosnia can still be a very dangerous place, but the preponderance of uneventful patrols make it even more difficult for soldiers to remain at the ready.

To what degree have lack of practice and training eroded the war-fighting capability in the units that will have spent a year patrolling the Bosnian countryside and manning checkpoints? True, a few of their basic soldiering skills are being used regularly, but the specialized skills of the many units deployed here tend to go unexercised.

"We have no mission here. There is no air threat," explained an NCO from the 5/3 Air Defense Artillery. Of course one might say that the reason there is no air threat is because the ADA is here with mobile Avenger batteries and Stingers. Still, they are getting practice walking the wire at some of the base camps, not working with their weapon systems.

The Long Range Surveillance (LRS) teams of E Company, 51st Infantry have mostly been put to work building defensive positions on hilltops, conducting weapons inspections and patrolling grave sites. An E Company NCOIC explains, "a mission is a mission, that's the bottom line, but we are not using our skills here. Normally we do long-range recon. A lot of our guys are Ranger and airborne and we are used to working dismounted in six-man teams doing covert stuff. Here we're driving around the countryside and we have crowds gathering." The LRS team is lucky that they will get to rotate out to do a training exercise in Hungary that will utilize their real skills.

Other units are not so fortunate. Many quarters have expressed concern over what the Army is planning to do to keep these combat soldiers current in their training. ☒—J.F.

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Kurd-World War
 Continued from page 43

help us," a straightfaced KDP commander, Mohammed Khalid Bosli, told a knot of reporters clustered at the entrance of the parliament. "There was some light shelling, though. Yes, we had some casualties. Three, I think. The PUK? I don't really know for sure. I think they lost quite a lot of men."

The traditionally outfitted commander was as tight-lipped as his beard was long; trying to get any real information from him was a waste of time. Having failed to get firsthand information on the events of the morning of the invasion, the press pack then focused on KDP guards at the gate, photographing and videotaping their every move — until one of the soldiers screamed that it was time for everyone to go.

Meanwhile, as the second round of U.S. Navy and Air Force cruise missiles was impacting around Baghdad, I was trying my damndest to gather information on the events leading up to the invasion. I consulted the



The Kurdistan Democratic Party's arsenal has a variety of small arms, including the British 9mm Sterling Mark 4 submachine gun.

local Catholic priest, Father Salim, an Iraqi. He and his female companion, a not-too-unattractive Kurdish woman of about 50, divulged over glasses of ice water what little information they had on the events preceding the KDP's victory.

"The Iraqis were having some sort of maneuvers the entire week leading up to the invasion," he recalled.

"From what I heard, some three tank divisions were practicing maneuvers about 40 kilometers from here, just over the line," the now profusely sweating priest went on. We agreed that U.S. satellites must have been monitoring the Iraqi exercises, so it shouldn't have come as much of a surprise when some of those tanks turned north and entered Ainkawa and then Erbil.

"The Iraqis didn't need to shoot very much to get the PUK to leave," he continued. "They knew the KDP had asked Saddam for help and that without the

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Americans they could never hold onto Erbil. Only the *pesherga* stayed to fight the Iraqis when they entered the city."

The *pesherga* were members of a kamikaze-like PUK unit noted for its fighting skills, Father Salim explained. He assumed most lost their lives defending the parliament. The Dominican priest said he heard through a parishioner that along with the tanks and combat vehicles came jeeploads of Iraqi secret police, the *Moukharat*.

"Of course they knew exactly where the PUK lived and worked and they went right there," he said. "The Moukharat tortured and then shot the leaders, then turned the other PUK members over to the KDP. Who knows what happened to them? This was a relationship made in hell. They forget how Saddam gassed so many Kurds in that village north of here. Terrible, no?"

I noticed a photo, hanging from the wall, of Father Salim posing with Pope John Paul; a table clock with a photo of Saddam Hussein as the clock's face sat nearby. The priest and his home, like the Middle East itself, were full of contradictions.

Father Salim's companion stood up and began to yawn. It was my signal to leave.

"We Are Not Iranians"

For a city just visited by Republican Guard armored and motorized-rifle units, Erbil seemed rather calm. Streets were crowded with fruit and vegetable hawkers, moneychangers were doing a brisk business exchanging U.S. greenbacks for kilograms of Iraqi dinars, and no one seemed really disturbed by KDP political teams screaming about new rules and regulations through loudspeakers mounted on their old, Russian jeeps.

KDP troops, fresh from combat against PUK militiamen for a bridge linking Erbil with the Iraqi-controlled city of Mosul, lounged under palm trees on the lawn of the former PUK military headquarters.

"We don't want Saddam," said a KDP soldier who identified himself only as Kamil. "We just needed his help to destroy the PUK. We love America. Please, mister, don't be angry with us. America our friend."

Another soldier, an elderly Kurd with a mouthful of brown stumps passing as teeth, proudly showed off his Kalashnikov rifle and tried to say something about Erbil finally being back in Kurdish hands.

"The PUK wants to make this Iran," Kamil jumped in. "This is Kurdistan. We are Kurds, not Iranians."

Still, as much as the KDP tried to destroy their fellow Kurds, it was the PUK that might have had the last laugh.

As a parting gesture, the PUK took control of a hydroelectric dam and cut off both the electricity and water to Erbil and its 500,000 residents. It was going to be a cold winter.

Chief Foreign Correspondent Mark H. Milstein has reported on armed conflicts in the former Yugoslavia, Chechnya, and southern Lebanon. He is based in Budapest, Hungary. ✕

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Long-Range Revenge

Continued from page 57

away: long-range penetration of SLORC-held Karen territory and the sniping of a high-ranking officer.) According to the troops, Gen. Bo Mya had a stainless-steel, 7.62x51mm bolt-action rifle that the unit had wanted for quite awhile. There's no reason, I thought, for a general to have a quality rifle as a showpiece when his shooters have to "make do."

Cockfight Supply Line

The next day a plan was hatched to have mounts machined for the Ruger. I assumed someone had found a Thai machine shop that wouldn't make too much noise about some Karen showing up with a rifle on the wrong side of the border.

Shortly after two snipers left with the Ruger, some other men showed up carrying a Czech-made Brno bolt-action rifle with Mannlicher stock, cheek piece, and scope of unknown origin. Nothing to get excited about, but the optics were serviceable.

I was told the 6th Brigade's commander had donated the rifle after winning it at a cockfight. He'd put \$1000 up against it. I wondered, "Where do you get \$1000 when the troops go begging for a 20-cent bar of soap?" Perhaps this rifle was proof that if the fighters make enough noise, somebody at the rear delivers — somehow, somehow.

My visit at an end, I was driven back to the headquarters. I dumped my rucksack in the front parlor of Bo Mya's house.

The well-appointed bamboo house had various weapons and an assortment of gear hanging from the rafters. The walls were hung with posters of Burmese dissident Aung San Suu Kyi, winner of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize. That afternoon I sat in respectful silence as Bo Mya conducted a conference with 10 elder Karen, his staff. Later I interviewed him through a translator.

At dinner I sat with the general and his wife. One dish looked as if the chunks of meat were wrapped in green leaves. It was very tasty. An elderly gentleman asked me the English name for the animal. Through pantomime I was informed that I was eating *tokat*. "Big lizard," I replied. After dinner I attended a church service although I didn't understand a lick of the Seventh Day Adventist sermon conducted in Karen.

I came away from Burma believing the Karen to be beautiful, friendly people who just want to be left alone and free in their jungle communities. They would be content to eke out a living through subsistence farming while raising their children according to their centuries-old, tribal lifeways. But SLORC and world-class bastards like Gen. Kyi Aung have other plans.

SOF Senior Foreign Correspondent Rob Krott has reported on conflicts in Bosnia, Africa and Asia. ✕

Natural Born Killers

Continued from page 68

1. An E-8 J-STARS detects a column of enemy T-72 tanks far outside the range of ground radar or Longbow Apache radar and alerts an AH-64D team on the ground at its base camp.

2. Climbing into their cockpits, the Apache crews insert the Data Transfer Device (DTD) into its slot in the instrument panel. Resembling a video game cartridge, the DTD is pre-loaded with assigned mission radio frequencies, navigational data, and IFF (Identify Friend-or-Foe) codes. Automatically, the data is transferred into the aircraft computer, and within four minutes the Apaches are airborne and ready to fight.

3. At the same time the J-STARS establishes the anticipated route of march of the T-72s, calculates their estimated time of arrival (ETA) at a predetermined point, then burst-transmits a digital message that is displayed on the crew station displays of the airborne Apaches.

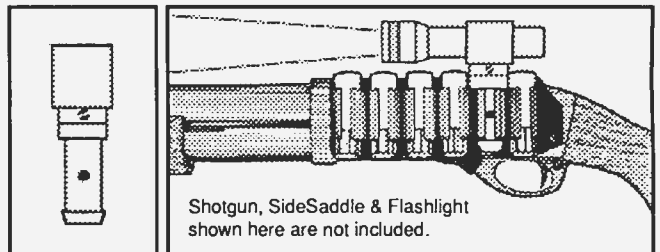
4. Arriving at the intercept point, the Longbow Apache team hovers below a ridge line 8 kilometers from the enemy tank column. Quickly, the team leader unmasks the Fire Control Radar, scans, acquires and transmits the target arrays to begin the coordinated attack. As a team, the waiting Apaches can engage without unmasking, unleashing a deadly salvo of

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5. After the engagement the Longbow Apache team leader consolidates battle damage reports from each AH-64D and transmits the data to the J-STARS Enhanced Ground Station Module (EGSM), as well as to other ground and airborne command and control stations. With mission accomplished, it's Miller time.

When any system is upgraded there are certain standards that must be met prior to acceptance. In the case of the Longbow Apache some of the Army's requirements were that it be at least 20% more lethal and survivable than the AH-64A. During Initial Operational Test and Evaluation (IOTE) exercises the Longbow Apache left no doubt that it truly is the most lethal, survivable, deployable and maintainable multi-mission combat helicopter in the world. Compared to the AH-64A Apache the AH-64D Longbow Apache proved to be 400% more lethal and 720% more survivable than its predecessor.

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Combat Weaponcraft

Continued from page 22

Now is a good time to consider what you may have to do if and when you go into the room and it is unfriendly. Always remember you can withdraw. Try to remember the last safe place you occupied just in case you need to return there. As I approach a door, I determine where the last safe place is. I decide how the door opens, conduct the search and enter.

These techniques are covert, deliberate, and slow to implement. Some individuals want to rush into doorways — referred to as a "flooding" technique. This is more useful in dynamic entries. But so we don't miss the point, there may be an incident where time is user-critical: for instance, when the threat is shooting hostages and tossing bod-

ies out of the window. You may be required to move quickly on the approach sizing up the door as you come to it. As the door comes open you simply flow into the room keeping your back as close to the wall as possible. Search, clear or engage and move on as needed.

Doors and doorways can be difficult and demanding, but they can be negotiated. There is a sign posted on the wall of our tactical house at Thunder Ranch called the "Terminator" that reads: "You have the rest of your life to solve your problem. How long your life lasts depends on how well you do it." So it is with doors.

Clint Smith is the owner and operator of Thunder Ranch, Dept SOF, HCR 1, Box 53, Mt. Home TX, 78058; phone: (210-640-3138. ✕



This door is going to open to you from the right to the left. Use your left hand to open the door and step back smoothly and return to a two-hand firing grip. Try



not to fling the door too hard so it opens, whacks the wall, and slams back shut. At the same time, don't open the door too slowly, so that someone inside has a lot of time to get ready or has a large portion of your arm and torso to shoot at.

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Command Guidance

Continued from page 3

changes for at least 10 years to make it easier to intercept drugs. The most recent versions, however, clearly are Clinton-administration schemes to facilitate firearms seizures. (This won't be the first time anti-drug provisions have been misused.)

The new firearms-enforcement areas created in the closing minutes of the 104th prohibit the transportation of a firearm within 1,000 feet of a school, unless exempted. The catch is that almost every highway in America at some point is within 1,000 feet of a school.

If a search conducted within one of these enforcement zones turns up a firearm that is not locked up, even if it is *unloaded*, the driver is subject to a felony charge. This means that if the old, pump shotgun in the rifle rack of your pickup is not secured in a manner deemed acceptable by some Washington bureaucrat, and you drive within a quarter-mile of a school, your life suddenly could be altered by a trip as a "felon" through the criminal-justice system. Having a concealed-weapons permit is not any protection, either, unless there was a background check conducted in order to issue the permit.

That means that people who are carrying firearms legally in vehicles in Vermont and Alabama — states that issue such permits without background checks — are guilty of a *federal* felony. It also means that people in Virginia and Alaska, who can legally carry a loaded firearm in a vehicle, are felons according to Big Brother.

The NRA is considering which action to take. Who knows what will happen? Perhaps another question we should asking is, who was supposed to be alerting all of us about this anti-gun, sneak attack in Congress? Certainly the damage done to the lawful ownership of firearms in a few short days was far worse than the passage of the assault-weapons ban.

As an NRA director, I know that if we had been able to alert our members before this happened, there might have been enough outraged phone calls to head off these things. ❧

Alterations, Tales...

Continued from page 52

run afoul of headquarters may wind up on the list — because of baseless allegations initiated at the behest of management, as a harassment tactic.

"An agency can 'create' Henthorn agents" as a means of punishment, she said, noting that listed agents typically are not fired, but are re-assigned to non-investigative duties that would, for the most part, preclude the possibility of them being called as a witness in a criminal case.

"After a few years," Kubicki said, "the person may be moved back into a special

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agent's job." She noted that special agents normally must be cleared for "top secret" access, while even ATF secretaries usually have a "secret" clearance. This raises the question as to whether *Henthorn* problems in an agent's personnel file would or should have any impact on a security background investigation as required for obtaining a security clearance.

Thomas B. Busey was head of ATF's National Firearms Act (NFA) Branch, the registry of all machine guns, sound suppressors, destructive devices and other federally restricted weapons, until firearms attorney James H. Jeffries III dug up a transcript in which Busey made some interesting statements in an ATF internal meeting in October 1995.

Busey Blunders, Blurts Truth

In a headquarters training session which was videotaped, Busey admitted that when he had taken over the NFA Branch a year earlier, the record-keeping was — well, a bit lax: "Our error rate was between 40 and 50%." Then he made to his colleagues what sounded remarkably like a tacit endorsement of perjury. "When we testify in court, we testify that the [registry's] data base is 100%... We will always testify to that. As you probably well know, that may not be 100% true..."

Busey's blunder was disclosed in *SOF* (see "Shadows of Many Doubts," Sept. '96). Busey was transferred out of NFA Branch, but was cleared of any wrongdoing by an Internal Affairs investigation. The IA report took pains to explain what he really meant was... Busey's replacement, Gary N. Schiabile, tried to smear sweet-tasting frosting on Busey's dung cake. But Schiabile admitted under oath in one criminal trial that two NFA clerks were transferred (not fired) for deliberately throwing in the trash NFA registration forms telefaxed to the office, so they could reduce their daily workload.

There is little doubt that Busey's blunder will come back to haunt ATF, in a federal courtroom.

—JLP

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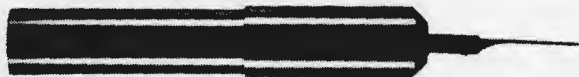
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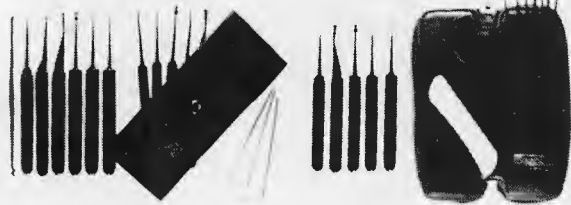
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...For Evidence Of Perjurious Conduct

The name comes from a federal court case in southern California against Donald Gene Henthorn, who was indicted for cocaine smuggling in December 1986. Prior to trial, Henthorn's defense attorney filed a motion for the court to order the prosecution "to produce the personnel files of all law-enforcement witnesses whom it intends to call at the trial... for evidence of perjurious conduct or other like dishonesty, *in camera* [in a judge's private office rather than *in open court*] to determine if those portions of the officers' personnel files ought to be made available to defense counsel for impeachment ... purposes.

The motion was overruled, based on the federal prosecutor's argument that the gov-

How can you tell if they're lying? Their lips are moving.

ernment had no obligation to inspect such personnel files unless the defense attorney could prove the file contained information of wrongdoing by a government agent. It was a *Catch-22* argument: You can't inspect the file unless you can prove specific wrongdoing, and you can't prove wrongdoing unless you can inspect the file.

Henthorn was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment and five years' probation. But his lawyer appealed his conviction on the basis that the U.S. District Court judge erred when he refused to grant the motion to have agent personnel files inspected in private to disclose any facts that might be used to call into question the agent's truth and veracity.

In April 1991, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals decided in favor of Henthorn, ruling that "the government has a duty to examine the personnel files of law-enforcement officers it intends to call as witnesses if a defendant requests production of the files." It was remanded to the lower court for a new trial.

In making its ruling, the appellate judges cited, among others, a couple of notable precedent cases.

In *United States vs. Cadet*, the court ruled that the government must "disclose information favorable to the defense that meets the appropriate standard of materiality... The government has a duty to examine personnel files upon a defendant's request for their production. ...The prosecutor's oath of office, not the command of a federal court, should have compelled the government to produce any favorable evidence in the personnel records."

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The appeals court judges also cited the routinely invoked *Brady doctrine*, which stems from *Brady vs. Maryland*. That decision holds that a defendant has a right to the production of exculpatory evidence in possession of the government. This right, protected by the Due Process Clause of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments, requires the government to turn over any information about its witnesses that could cast doubt upon their credibility.

Henthorn's appellate decision specifies that "there is no question that the AUSA [assistant United States attorney] prosecuting a case is responsible for compliance with the dictates of *Brady*" and other related cases, such as *Cadet*. "... This personal responsibility cannot be evaded by claiming

You can't inspect the file unless you can prove specific wrongdoing, and you can't prove wrongdoing unless you can inspect the file.

lack of control over the files or procedures of other executive-branch agencies..."

In a footnote to that appeals-court ruling, the judges noted that "counsel for the government informs us that the Department of Justice has instituted a policy designed to implement the holding of *Henthorn*. Under this policy, the files of law-enforcement officers are to be examined by the appropriate agency's attorney or his staff.

"The agency legal staff will notify the federal prosecutor assigned to the case if any potential *Brady* material is found, and the AUSA will then determine whether the information should be disclosed or whether an *in camera* review by the district court is appropriate," the footnote concludes.

Unless it is part of a court record in a specific trail, the Privacy Act forbids the disclosure of the names of any agent identified as having a potential credibility problem under the *Henthorn* ruling. But accompanying this article are profiles of some ATF agents whose backgrounds, as verified by public records, could be used in a manner similar to the *Henthorn* case to challenge their credibility as witnesses.

"Whether the government honors this obligation is another story," said NATA's Jorgensen. "Knowing what the law is, and following it, are two different things. *Henthorn* is so new, the full impact has not yet been felt." ❧





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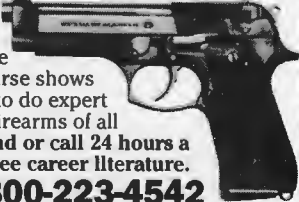
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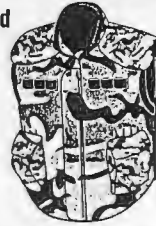
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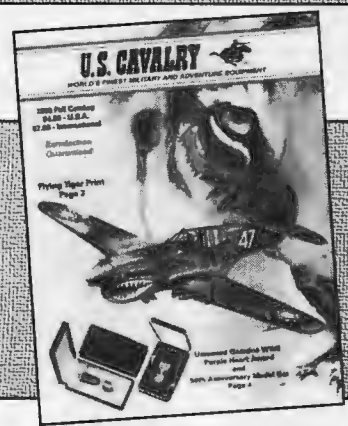


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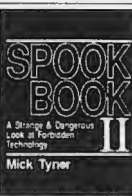
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SOUND OFF

by Col. David H. Hackworth (Ret.)

Foreign Policy Report Card

Now that Bill Clinton's first term has just ended, it's time to grade him on his national security courses:

SOMALIA - F
HAITI - F
MIDDLE EAST - D
KOREA - A
BOSNIA - INCOMPLETE

Freshman Clinton started out badly, his performance hurt by security advisers with little or no street smarts. Consequently, our forces waded into futile and often bloody swamps. While firing Secretary of Defense Les Aspin was a good move, he then should have replaced his complete national security crew with people who had heard the zip of a body bag firsthand and wouldn't be afraid to tell the boss when he was about to do something real dumb.

His grades did improve when he dealt with the problems he inherited in Iraq and Korea; our president did about as well as anyone would do with the loony-tune Middle Eastern Hatfields and McCoys.

Contrary to expectations reinforced by his peace trips to Northern Ireland, the Middle East, the Balkans and other hot spots where he could do his peace dance, Clinton has not been a peace president. In fact, since Vietnam, when he was really anti-war, he's acted more like Teddy Roosevelt than ol' "big stick" Teddy himself.

Now the sun never sets on Clinton's military legions. Under Clinton, America has become a globo-robo-cop. Since 1992, Clinton's stuck our forces in 62 troubled countries. U.S. commitments have ranged from Green Berets in Cambodia, Rangers in Somalia, Navy battle groups off Taiwan, a division in Haiti, fighter squadrons in Turkey, a division in Bosnia and multiservice battle formations in the Middle East.

Morale throughout our armed forces is as low as whale dung because these fast-paced deployments came exactly as the forces were shrinking, leaving too few to do too much. These commitments — few have anything to do with defending America — have cost a high price in blood and a fortune in dollars and have stretched our armed forces to the breaking point. They have bent, chipped and dulled America's readiness spear.

Too, the politically correct assignment of women to combat positions has gutted fighting spirit, discipline and unit cohesion throughout the force. By attempting to provide opportunities for women, Clinton and dorks like Congresswoman Patty Schroeder, D-Colo., have done more damage to combat efficiency and fight-



Col. David Hackworth (Ret.), also writes a syndicated weekly column titled "Defending America." "Hack" doesn't pull any punches and many liberal rags won't carry his writing. If your local paper falls into that category, call the editor and let him know you'd like to see "Defending America" on the Op-Ed page. It's syndicated by King Features, 235 E. 45th St., New York, NY 10017.

ing spirit than the Japanese attack did at Pearl Harbor in 1941.

Our military fighting machine is sputtering, and the heart is being ripped out of our senior NCO Corps — the backbone of the U.S. military — as well. These pros who train our young officers and warriors are quitting in droves.

Meanwhile, Clinton's top brass seem unable to recognize the signs of a force unraveling under siege. Precious few are war fighters who understand that military necessity must prevail over political expediency if our brave warriors are not to be doomed to more massacres like Mogadishu.

Even though the force has downsized by one-third, there's been no peace dividend. Instead, Clinton has upsized the Pentagon's budget, which is now gobbling up more tax dollars — with no enemy in sight — than before the Soviet Union keeled over. We're still buying obsolete systems designed to shoot down the already crashed Sovs, a peachy maneuver for Clinton's pals in the corporate defense welfare community, but bad for the rest of us.

During the four years of Clinton's "peace during our time" administration, the United States has spent more on war preparation than the rest of the world combined!

Clinton has been running scared of his senior generals and admirals. Just look at the \$300 billion annual Pentagon budget, which he's afraid to cut. His nagging worry about being remembered at election time as a draft dodger has caused him to be a less-than-forceful commander in chief.

He said "I cannot afford a rupture with the service's senior leadership." But to be effective, our commander in chief must treat the top brass forcibly, like one would a strong-willed horse, or they'll run wild.

Overall, Clinton barely gets a passing grade. To do better this term, he's got to get a new security team, take charge of his top brass and rule with the wisdom of Sun Tzu (author of *ART OF WAR*).

America and its fine warriors deserve a president with straight As, not one who just scrapes by.

[Http://www.hackworth.com](http://www.hackworth.com) is the address of David Hackworth's home page.

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